



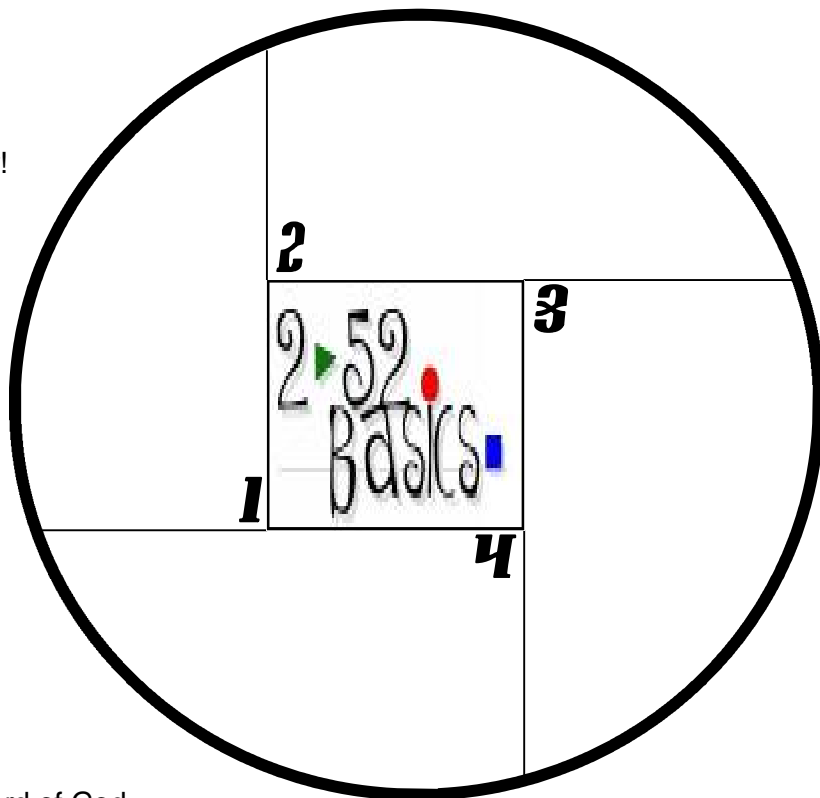
"An Invitation With An Expectation"
Teacher's Appreciation & Fellowship
Saturday, March 14th, 2009
9:30 – 12:00 p.m.



Four COMPENTS to reaching CHILDREN

Luke 2:52 –

Balanced Living...
Balanced Ministry!



1. Spiritual - The Word of God
2. Mental - Walking In Understanding
3. Physical - Engaging Development
4. Social - Outward Fruitfulness



1. The Word (Spiritual) – you must always take the children to Jesus – the Living Word!

Our goal is not to fill the minds or the hearts of the children with information. You as a Kids Ministry Servant, need to know the information, so you can discover applied ways for the “take away of transformation”.

As you lead them to the Word of God, what is that one thing they will walk away with that will grow them in their walk or relationship with Jesus?

Always ask the question: Does my lesson lead the children to Jesus?

2. Walking in Understanding (Mental) – you must help the children to clearly understand what you are teaching.

Our goal is not to just present curriculum or a lesson, it is to equip the child with an understanding of what is being taught.

Proverbs 3:13 – this is our goal

Proverbs 19:8 – this is our goal

Proverbs 20:5 – this is your role – this takes time & prayer.

How do you draw out that understanding so it can take root in the heart of the child?

There are ways you can help them connect the dots:

- visual aids – things kids can see. Example: Israel
- key words – catch words kids can attach to – JOY (Jesus Other You)
- colorful animated illustrations – drawings they color for you, etc.
- powerpoint – technology can be a resource
- video clip – video library, God-tube, etc.

It is important to activate their senses so they can process and comprehend better what is being taught to them.

This helps them to catch it!

- Engaging Development (Physical) – you must get them participating in what you are teaching. We are not about lecturing but about engaged learning. The “caught” approach.

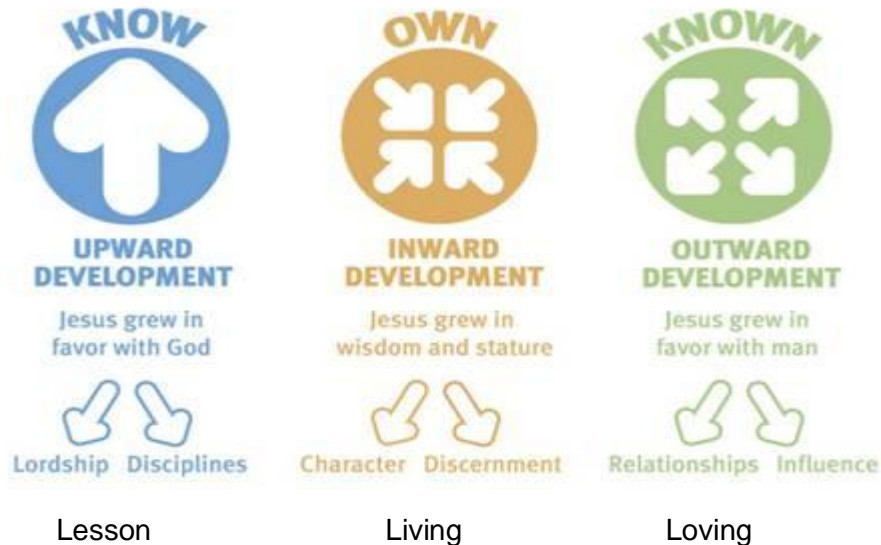
It is important to design your lesson in way that enables to them explore what you are wanting them to learn. This means:

- you are looking for their input – use them to help re-enforce lesson
- you are asking quality questions – make them think – then listen to them
- you are having fun interaction – do something tangible to make it real

- Outward Fruitfulness (Social) – you must equip the children in such away that they will apply the truth of the Word to their own hearts but out of their hearts will flow truth, touching their world around them. This is the transfer of the transformation. They must be able to pass it along.

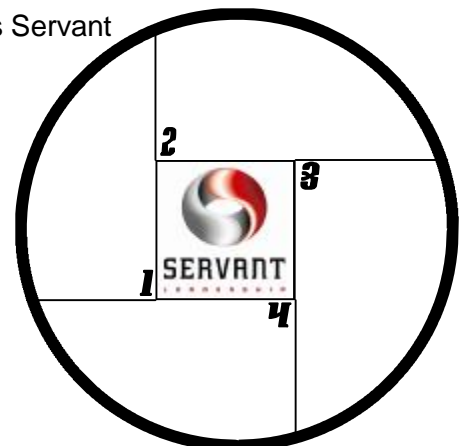
This means that your lesson needs to be simple enough not only for them to be challenged but simple enough that they can share it with those around them.

And Jesus Grew...



Four COMPONENTS to living CHRIST-LIKE as a Children’s Servant

- Devotions – Personal Walk with Jesus
- Fellowship – Public Walk with Others
- Evaluation – Seriousness of the Call
- Selflessness – Suspending of the Liberties





1. Personal Walk with Jesus (Devotions)

The Bible is emphatic that we should commune with God in a private place (Matt. 6:5-6). Going into seclusion for devotions serves several purposes:

- It assures that our devotions will not be merely a show of piety, designed to impress others.
- It protects us from interruptions.
- It achieves privacy, so that we can be open with God. Prying eyes will not hinder us from expressing our feelings. Whether we shed tears or glow with joy, only God sees.

The Bible gives many examples of saints who sought privacy in their fellowship with God. Daniel went to his bedchamber (Dan. 6:10). Peter went to the housetop (Acts 10:9). Jesus went to the wilderness (Luke 5:16), or to a solitary place (Mark 1:35), or to a mountaintop (Mark 6:46).

Time of Devotions

Several texts recommend meeting with God in the morning (Psa. 5:3; 88:13; 143:8). Others speak of devotional prayer three times a day (Psa. 55:17; Dan. 6:10). It is probably fair to say that most Christians throughout history have had their devotions in the morning, using them as spiritual preparation for all the duties and challenges of the coming day. Many great warriors for God—such as John Wesley and Hudson Taylor—routinely arose early, in darkness, so that they might have a long season of prayer before breakfast. No doubt each was moved by a sense of responsibility to intercede for the thousands of people under his care.

2. Public Walk with Others (Fellowship)

1 Samuel 18:1-3

In this passage, we read about a special friendship between David and Jonathan—the son of King Saul. After David killed Goliath, he was brought before Saul. As David was speaking, something happened in Jonathan's heart. The Bible says, *"the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul."*

SPIRITUAL ATTRACTION

In 1 Samuel 18:14 we read about the character of David: *“And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.”* As David stood before King Saul that day, you could say that Jonathan was attracted to his godliness. Jonathan had respect and admiration for David's faith. The reason that their souls were knit together was because there was a spiritual attraction.

Jonathan recognized that David was behaving himself wisely in the king's presence. He was drawn to David's strength and to his relationship with God. The bible commanded us to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might—Ephesians 6:10. So to fulfill His divine plan for our benefits God uses relationships. God used friends as a channel of spiritual blessings to establish our faith.

What attracts you to your friends? What qualities draw you nearer to them? When you see your friends, do you say, *“Just being around them helps me to love God and to love holiness. They help me hold the standard high in the way that I talk, walk, and live”*? The answer to these questions will tell you a lot about yourself.

Sad to say, some get closer to somebody and become intimate friends because of the same carnal opinions, or because of their worldly lifestyle, or because of selfish intention and desires. They click to each other as they mingled and attracted spiritually to each other as they are convenient of being around from each other company.

SPIRITUAL IDENTIFICATION

Many times, even in church, people are drawn to those who do not encourage them spiritually. It is God's intention that our friendships tend to godliness. Nearness is likeness—when we spend large amounts of time with our friends, we begin to share their interests, opinions, and beliefs.

Jesus said a friend is living what his friend wants them to be—John 15:14. Therefore, we must be careful enough to call somebody a friend.

Amos 3:3 described why two persons enjoyed each other company.

I Corinthians 15:33 explained that evil friends destroyed good character.

How important it is for us to choose friends who will encourage us to serve the Lord and to obey His commandments. It has been said that “our friendships determine our destiny”. Let's purpose today to develop those relationships that draw us closer to Christ.

Having this type of relationship cause you to grow deeper in your love relationship with Jesus as you walk it out with someone who is like minded in the things of the Lord!

3. Seriousness of the Call (Evaluation)

To serve children is a serious call.

In our serving we always need to be examining our lives to make sure that we are not miss representing the Lord to the children that we are serving.

This calling is one that we are not to take lightly as we see in James 3:1, ***My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.***

This is not written to Senior Pastors of a church, it is to be said of all those who open the Bible and lead people in the ways of the Word.

During the days in which James lived, the Rabbis were master teachers and they loved to receive the honor, the respect, the praise from their fellow Jews. In Matthew 23:1-7 Jesus rebuked them for this. First of all they placed themselves into a position that God did not and thus, they had no authority to add human tradition to God's Word, no one does!

They were ***false spiritual leaders*** that lacked ***integrity***, they lacked ***sympathy***, and they lacked ***humility***. You see, they loved the title, they loved the honor, they loved the attention, and they lacked the humility!

That has not changed much today as people want to serve but they don't always want the responsibility that goes along with it. It is not just about coming in, teaching and then leaving and going home – your life is given over to serve God's people, not for anything else but the love for the Lord and His people.

We need to understand that as we teach God's Word there is a huge responsibility to present it accurately publically but also living it out privately.

This calling is one that we can't take lightly. We are called to be diligent in our studies and disciplined in our living.

Jesus so warned that we need to be careful that we are not bring offense to the children as we lead them.

Matthew 18:6, But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a **millstone** were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Examining what the Lord has called us too, should cause our lives to line up with His plan for us bringing Him pleasure in all that we do.

4. Suspending of the Liberties (Selflessness)

As we serve in this ministry there is another component that we must be mindful of and that is living our lives in light of those we teach.

This calling, comes with a cost. The cost is that we have to lay our liberties aside to prevent our lives from potentially being a stumbling block to the children.

Paul focus on the suspension of the liberties when he writes to the Romans in Chapter 14:13, ***Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.***

Paul had a good deal to say about the weak brother. The substance of his teaching is that those who are strong ought to be careful not to harm him who is weak in any way. Remember the children are the weaker ones!

We should be willing for their sake to make sacrifices of personal rights and privileges. We must modify and adjust our own life to bring it down to the level of the weak brother. We may not ignore him in the asserting of our own liberty.

The great ship in the channel may not go plowing on its way with no regard for the smaller ships pursuing their course in the same channel. The great man in pursuing his course must think of the little men that are in his way.

We may not live for ourselves alone. If you are one in a company of others traveling together that are strong and swift footed, we may not set the pace for the party; we must hold our strength in restraint and accommodate our speed to the weak and slow stepping of those around us. The strong must help the weak, must be gentle toward them, patient with them.

Jesus said, blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the Kingdom of God.

Paul said, that all things are lawful but not all things are profitable.

This morning we want to look inside our lives and see if there are things that we are doing in how we are living that could potentially cause harm to the children we are teaching.

As we serve the children, we must suspend some of our liberties for the sake of the children.

This is a high calling, one of personal and public integrity. Which means we are to be devoted to Christ daily, fellowshipping with those who are likeminded, continually examining our hearts and living lives of transparency.

Four COMPONENTS to COMMUNICATING as a Children's Servant.

1. Voice Inflection – Variation – Sound Alive!
2. Body Language – Illustrative – Look Alive!
3. Eye Contact – Connection – Luke 22:60-61a
4. Facial Expression – Emotion – Be Real!

