



# TREASURE CHEST

Quarterly/ Free  
Dec 2015 issue

e-NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.  
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*Have you been passing on the baton  
to the next generation?*

## Our Purpose for Living

Imagine if today I woke up and combed my hair with a fork, blew my nose on sandpaper, put the bread in my shoes to make toast, poured milk in my car to make it run, and put the butter in the hot oven to keep it cold. "You're crazy?" you may say. The problem is that I just didn't use things for the purpose that they were created.

So what is our purpose for life? Why were we created? *'For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.'* (Ephesians 2:10)



Everything has a purpose. Milk can't make your car go any more than a hot oven can keep your butter cold. You may be able to partly comb your hair with a fork, but that's not its purpose.

As a believer God has some purposes for your life as well: evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, service and worship. You'll never truly be fulfilled as a Christian until you are operating in all five of these areas?

We have a role to be models and examples to the next generation. How can you pass a sense of purpose along to your students when it's not already present in your own life?

So, let's find out what our skills, talents, gifting and passions are, for they are a good indication as to our purpose in life. And use them to produce good works for the glory of God



**Thought:** God had plans for your life before you were born. Walk in them.

**Verse:** Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

## The Five Be's of Creative Teaching

*Your presentation should not be a lecture style but one that is engaging, thoughtful and life changing.*



**Be Animated** - When talking to kids, telling stories or leading the program, use your hands, different voice tones and funny gestures. (Don't overdo them however, especially if you appear awkward or uncomfortable). Animated expressions make a message very engaging. And also may make the message stick in the child's mind and heart.

**Be Passionate** - Passion communicates excitement that you have in your message. When you speak with passion it can be passed on to the audience. Personal examples of how the gospel has affected your life can have a powerful impact on your listeners.



**Be Interactive** - Ask questions, get children out the front to help you, get children to repeat after you ... interaction helps with engagement. Communication should never be a lecture but rather it should feel like a conversation between you and the multiple individuals.



**Be Visual** - On average, 83% of what we learn is taken in through the eye-gate. Use props, costumes, video clips, objects, etc that can be used to supplement your message. Visuals are there just to assist you in helping make your presentation clearer.



**Be Clear** - Ensure you have a very clear understanding of the teaching and have made an effort to present it at the level that the audience can understand. When telling a story or doing some teaching, write down key points in large writing so that you can glance at it and be reminded of your story line. However, at the same time write out 'word perfect' the teaching part or applications. This is not for you to read out during your presentation, but to ensure you know clearly beforehand what you need to say.



*... adapted from Chad Owens (KidsMatter Aug 2015)*

## Preschooler Development

Kids ministry teachers can assist parents of preschoolers by incorporating these development tips into their time with the children.



### **Preschoolers are:**

**Evaluating Size Differences.** When referring to height (short/tall, low/high) use your hands and also use opposites. So when telling the story of David & Goliath you can emphasise tall and short. Other size differences are wide/narrow, short/long, thin/thick, shallow/deep. You may remember the old kids choruses 'Wide, wide as the ocean' and 'Deep and wide' along with their actions.

**Learning Directional Words.** Again use your hands when giving instructions such as right & left, stop & go and up & down. Make sure you briefly have your back to the children when you point right or left. God sent Jesus down to this earth at the first Christmas, but when he was 33 years old he went up through the clouds and off to heaven.

**Developing Awareness of Senses.** The 5 senses are sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. Point to the appropriate body part (ears, nose, etc) when referring to the various senses. The story of the blind man (get children to put their hands over their eyes to experience not being able to see) or the Israelites and Manna (hand out small cracker biscuits with honey on them so the child may taste what Manna may have tasted like).

**Learning About Emotions.** They are slowly learning how to control their emotions and are having less tantrums. They are better at communicating their feelings. They can distinguish between the basic emotions of happy, mad and sad. Why not use words such as frustrated, annoyed, surprised and glad. Often it's helpful to use facial expressions or other body actions as you say the words (practice in front of a mirror). Use positive words such as amazed and excited. People's reactions to Jesus miracles ... describe the experience of the blind man as he sees trees, flowers, the moon, etc for the first time. "Wow, that's amazing," as he smiles and even laughs.

There are others such as '**Alike and Different**', '**Seasons**' (Christmas and Easter) or '**Days of the Week**' which also includes today, tomorrow, yesterday, the future and the past (Sabbath, Jesus return, Creation are some Biblical concepts that can be used).

Parents will be delighted when they are aware that the kids ministry is helping in their child's development within a Christian teaching context.

## Leaders and Frustration

Frustration happens when I have an idea and a vision for the kids ministry, but it seems my team members haven't got the same vision. This may be caused when:



1. I have failed to communicate the vision clearly. It's clear in my mind but the team members haven't got a clue what I'm talking about.
2. Maybe my vision has many flaws in it and hasn't been thought through clearly enough and the team members can see the problems 'sticking out a mile'. Working out a proper plan to execute the vision is essential.
3. I haven't put my feet in the shoes of the team members who can see that the carrying out of the vision will fall in their laps. They have time constraints such as family and work commitments that I need to consider.
4. Maybe I am moving too quickly. One large event has just finished and now I am proposing the next one. The team members just need time to catch their breath and settle down before the next event.
5. I can feel frustrated when I am tired and exhausted. Too many late nights and then there are other stresses in being a leader of a team. Maybe I need to slow down and be refreshed myself.
6. No one ever does the job as well as I would do it! The pastor keeps telling me to delegate but I get frustrated when the team members haven't prepared sufficiently or haven't put their heart and soul into their task. Maybe I'm a bit of a perfectionist and have pride or control issues.

### **GAME—Apple Stack**

No, you don't stack it on your head like in the picture.

**Aim:** to see how many apples you can stack one on top of the other (in a tower) on a low table in 30 seconds.

- One child/contestant at a time. Have 3 or 4 contestants spread throughout the program.
- Take one apple at a time from the large bowl and stack into a tower on the table.
- If the 'tower' falls and you are within the 30 second time limit, you can start building again.
- It's how many are still standing in the stack at the end of 30 seconds.

**Need:**

7 apples in a large bowl

Timer - stop watch, i-phone.

Flat low solid table to stack on

Several Prizes—for people who stack 4, 5 or 6+

