



TREASURE CHEST

Quarterly/ Free
June 2014 issue

e-NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.

Produced by Children's Ministry Network in W.A.

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FUN or BORING?

Do you want to know if children like coming to your kids ministry program or not? There are two words you can ask them to find out. These two words carry a lot of weight for a child.

The first word is FUN. If you want to find out if kids enjoy coming to your church, ask them if it's fun or not. Stand by the pick-up door and you'll hear this question asked by parents over and over. "Did you have fun today?" Now in case you misunderstand me by thinking I am just talking about being entertained, **I am not!** To a child, here's what fun means. I was engaged ... they kept my attention ... they taught using my learning style ... it was interactive ... it was enjoyable ... I got to talk ... I got to move around ... I got to play a game ... it was age-appropriate for me ... it honoured my attention span. Now, children may not express it exactly like that, but when they say "fun" that's what they mean.



The second word is BORING. When a child says something is boring, it means the opposite happened.

not engaging ... it didn't hit their learning style ... they had to sit still ... they couldn't talk ... they were lectured to ... it didn't keep their attention. So, if you want a true picture of how effective your children's ministry is at engaging kids with God's Word ... ask them what they think. All you need to ask are those two words. Is it fun or boring?

When we faithfully present the word of God, its teachings & applications to life within a 'fun' context (interactive, engaging, enjoyable, relevant, understandable), then we are well on the way to ministering to children effectively.



FEELING INFERIOR IN KIDS MINISTRY?

Do you ever feel like you are not suited for kids' ministry and maybe God can't really use you? After all, there are so many talented people out there. So many who are better teachers, better singers and better kids' ministry workers than what you are.



Here are 3 simple reminders for you.

Reminder #1: There will always be people more talented than you.

As a kids' worker, I sometimes have inferiority feelings when I see another gifted kids' worker in operation. I admire their creativity or the clarity of their presentation. Why can't I hold the attention of my audience like that person does? Why didn't I come up with that great idea? (*Maybe it's not an inferiority complex problem I have but a pride problem!!!*)

Anyhow, where did we ever get the idea that God is only interested in the best and that He can only use the super-talented? Just remember, "God isn't after the best. However, He is after *your* best."

Reminder #2: You get better as you do, not as you sit.

Is there something you want to do and do well? Something you feel called to do? Something you *know* God wants you to do?

If so, just get started. Remember, "Anything worth doing well is worth doing poorly just to get started."

It's really hard to improve while standing still. If you want to get better as a story teller, leader, communicator or effective kids ministry worker then just get going! And you will get better as you do it.

Reminder #3: God has and will continue to use imperfect people.

Whenever you wonder if God can use someone with weaknesses and failings, just look at this list of people that God has used.

- * Noah was a drunk
- * Isaac was a daydreamer
- * Moses had a speech impediment
- * Gideon was afraid
- * Naomi was a widow
- * Peter denied Christ
- * Abraham was too old
- * Jacob was a liar
- * Joseph was abused
- * Jeremiah was too young
- * Ruth was a foreigner
- * The disciples fell asleep

Hebrews 13:21 reminds us that God doesn't call the equipped, but he does equip the called.

So, be encouraged to keep on keeping on ...

... for Aussie kids and the KINGdom!

Object Lesson about Self-Control

This is safe but may be messy so prepare the demonstration area. You will need the following supplies to demonstrate this object lesson:

- A clear drinking glass
- Liquid dishwashing detergent
- 2 tbsp of baking soda
- Vinegar
- Food colouring
- Large baking pan



Say: Men and women have trained wild animals like elephants, tigers and even lions but it is much more difficult to tame a part of your body—the tongue! Everyone gets angry at times but some don't have much self-control when we have these strong feelings. It's easy to allow anger to grow and then you blurt out something you regret later. According to James 3:2-8, we must not sin when we feel angry. Let me show you what I mean.

Demonstrate: Place the baking pan on the table to catch the overflowing experiment. Place the glass in the centre of the pan and fill it nearly full with warm/hot water. If you like, drip two drops of food colouring in the water. Now add three to four drops of liquid detergent. Sprinkle in 2 tablespoons of baking soda. Here comes the fun part—pour in the vinegar! You'll see it bubble up!

Say: We are like the water. The baking soda is like our anger. The vinegar is our self control. If we don't get self-control working properly, it will cause us to do the wrong thing. God's plan is better; stop, pray and walk away!

Mimi Bullock

TIPS ON PRESENTING OBJECT LESSONS AND GOSPEL ILLUSIONS

Using objects, whether they are everyday items, paper folds, 'magic' tricks (illusions) or any other item, can be very effective to help get a message over.

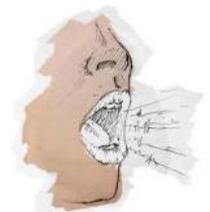
1. Don't read your notes; just have the main points jotted down
2. Involve your audience
3. When referring to the object, point to it or hold it up!
4. Don't use "school" words (e.g. this teaches us a lesson ...)
5. Use the KIS MIF principle - Keep It Simple, Make It Fun
6. Use stories and personal illustrations to enhance the presentation
7. The object is there just to aid your teaching and to make your presentation visual & memorable.
8. Quote the same key verse, concept or 'catch cry' several times throughout the presentation
9. Practise the trick as a trick. Then you will be able to concentrate on the message during your presentation.
10. When doing an illusion, don't give away your secret.

**Check out
these sites online**



- www.ricksmagic.com/tricks
- www.sermons4kids.com
- www.professorwonder.com/magicndx.htm
- www.thechildrenssermon.com
(a free weekly sermon for kids)
- www.childrensermons.com
- www.bergchristian.com/SermonsInChemistry.htm
- waldothec clown.com/object_lesson_index_page.htm
- www.fcm.org
(Fellowship of Christian Magicians)
- www.gospelmagic.com (Dock Haley site)

VARY YOUR VOICE



One mistake I see people make when they are teaching kids is keeping their voice at the same level the entire lesson. A good communicator with kids will vary his or her voice level throughout the lesson. They will vary between loud, medium, and a faint whisper. When you keep the same voice level the entire lesson (monotone), you begin to sound like Charlie Brown's teacher. When this happens, kids will tune you out. To vary your voice level, you have to be intentional. Identify parts of the lesson where you will whisper. Identify parts of the lesson where you will be loud. Identify parts of the lesson where you will maintain a normal tone. Try it the next time you teach and watch the kids' engagement improve.

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