



TREASURE CHEST

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

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

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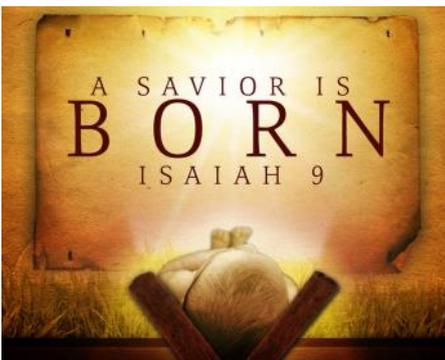


It seems clear Santa used to be a Children's Pastor

Think about these similarities:

1. His office is hard to find.
2. He assumes any and all snacks he finds are his to eat.
3. He has no adult workers.
4. He is only seen on rare occasions.
5. No one seems to know who he reports to.
6. He laughs way too much.
7. He is always trying crazy stunts like climbing down a chimney.
8. No one seems to know what he does during the week.
9. He does an impossible job with no visible means of support.
10. Kids love him.

unknown



Getting your audience's attention!

Dale Carnegie says that when giving a speech, you have 20 seconds to gain people's attention. Whether you are telling a Bible story, presenting an object lesson or doing some direct teaching, you have to gain the kids attention quickly. Here are a few tips!

1. Your first words are critical. Don't waffle or say how lovely it is to see everyone. Go straight into the topic.

2. Use an attention getter (object/ visual, short story, dramatic or relevant comment, question, etc). For example - *"Just 15 sleep's till Christmas. Who knows what gifts they would like this Christmas? Look at this gift that I have here ... it's the greatest gift. Do you want to know what's in it?"* In that example, I have mentioned gifts & Christmas (*what kids are not interested in those?*), I have used a visual (large present) and also asked questions, especially the last one which plays on the children's inquisitiveness.



3. It is sometimes good to write down your introductory sentence(s) word for word or at least practice them, not just in your mind but out loud and even in front of a mirror.

4. Be enthusiastic and positive! If you appear excited about this presentation then the audience will catch your enthusiasm. However, don't be so over-dramatic that your enthusiasm appears false. Kids can sense a fake!

5. Don't talk down to children ... *"now girls and boys, I want to tell you a lovely story about a pretty little princess."* The 4 year old girls might be impressed, but the 11 year old boys will puke!

6. Use your face, voice and body to advantage. You can express feelings through your facial expressions or body actions.

- A sniff, a sad face and bent shoulders will indicate that the character in your story is sad and having a bad day. *"Have you ever had a bad day?"*

- Outstretched hands can be used to introduce size - *"The fish was much bigger than this!"*

- Hands convey emotions. A clenched fist can indicate anger. *"I'll get you back, yelled the angry boy."*

Movement keeps your audience focused and creates a feeling of action. Sometimes nervousness can cause the speaker to over do it however. Don't be afraid to use your whole self (face, voice & actions) when telling a story. It's the best & cheapest visual in your arsenal for gaining the kid's attention.

7. Make sure that your introduction has a purpose (e.g. to gain attention or to give an introduction to your topic) but then ensure you have a transitional statement that moves you from your introduction into the body of your talk.

Rob Adams



A Good Coffee takes time

How many of you have one of these types of coffee makers in your house? How many of you have a mum or dad who can't seem to make it in the mornings without at least one cup of coffee?

For a lot of adults and even teenagers, coffee is an important part of their day.

Some people can't begin their day without a cup of coffee. Now there are different ways to make coffee and different types of machines, but a good coffee from a machine like this one usually takes a little time to make. You can't just open the fridge, take the cap off the jug of coffee, and pour

yourself a tall glass of coffee. You have to wash out the pot, dump out yesterday's coffee grounds and filter, put a new filter in, scoop in some new coffee grounds, pour in the hot water, and then wait for the coffee to slowly drip down and fill the pot.

Imagine how frustrating it can be for some people who desperately "need" that cup of coffee, having to wait as long as five whole minutes to get their coffee so they can begin their work.

Now imagine waiting 40 years before you can get started on your work! That's the story of Moses. Many of you may know Moses as the man who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. But did you know that Moses had to wait 40 years before he was ready to do the job God had given him?

Moses was raised in the palace by Pharaoh's daughter, but he was an Israelite. Moses saw the way the Egyptians were treating the Israelites, and he wanted to help them. In fact, one day he killed an Egyptian for mistreating a Hebrew slave.

But violence was not part of God's plan for Moses, and these actions led to him living in the back part of the desert as a shepherd. Yes, he lived 40 years in the wilderness, far from the splendour of Egypt, looking after sheep for his father-in-law. Then one day, God spoke to Moses through a burning bush and told him to return to Egypt.

God has a plan for all of our lives. For some people, those plans are difficult to see. For others, they could not be clearer. But whether God gives you a clear calling or keeps you guessing, remember the story of Moses. Wait on the Lord, and let him tell you when it is time to act. You may think you have it all figured out, but God sees many things we cannot see. Wait on the Lord, and you will be amazed at his perfect timing.

Christmas Time Game

At just the right time, God sent His son.

Galatians 4:4 (RAV)



Six children play this game. They make 3 teams with 2 in each team. Each pair has a Christmas Cracker (Bon Bon) between them. Each player

holds an end of their Bon Bon. When the leader says 'go' they have to count up to 27 seconds in their mind and then together pull the Bon Bon's when they think the time is up. Whichever pair gets the closest to 27 seconds are the winners. A leader with the stop watch judges.

Needed: 3 Bon Bons; Stopwatch; Bible verse written on a sheet so all can see the words.

Modify: Just have 3 individual people holding a Party Popper each and play with the same rules. Not recommended with very young children. Ensure they point the popper away from their face.



Application: We celebrate Jesus birth at Christmas time. The Bible says (*read Gal.4:4*). This doesn't mean that the time Jesus was born was 3 o'clock in the morning nor does it mean he was born on 25th December (we actually don't know the exact date or time). However, at just the right time in the history of the world, God chose to send his son to this earth. It was all part of God's timing and God's plan to bring Jesus to earth in order to become the Saviour of the world.

THE CHRISTMAS ACROSTIC

C = Christ. God's gift to us.

H = Heaven. Jesus came down from Heaven to be born at Bethlehem.

R = Redeemer. To redeem something means to buy it back. It cost God the life of Jesus in order to bring us back to himself.

I = Israel. Jesus was born in Israel in the town of Bethlehem.

S = Star. God sent a bright star to guide the wise men.

T = Three gifts brought by the wise men.

M = Manger, in which Jesus was placed.

A = Angels, who announced the birth of Jesus.

S = Shepherds, the first to hear the 'Good News'.



How Did Jesus Recruit Volunteers?

- He personally invited each individual volunteer
- Jesus did not present a need, he presented a vision
- He had a personal relationship with his team
- He equipped each of his team members



THE BABY JESUS STARTS TEETHING.