

iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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Jesus is... the ultimate Guide

Jesus is not a typical leader. He didn't come to earth the first time to rule in might and power, although He could have. No, He first came as a servant, willing to do the Father's work, live a perfect life, and die on a cross to take the punishment He didn't deserve. He was humble, obedient, loving, selfless, and sacrificial. This is not the way the world would describe a leader, but isn't it the kind of person you would want to follow? Jesus didn't come to call the richest, smartest, or prettiest people. He first called fishermen, ordinary people like you and me, to follow Him. There was nothing special about them except the fact that Jesus chose them. He was going to do amazing things through the men that followed Him and He made them fishers of men and still does that today. He is the perfect leader and He will use those who follow Him to do the good works He has planned for us to do.

<http://www.watermark.org/blog/jesus-is-our-guide-and-the-ultimate-leader>

Disciples after Jesus

The vision becomes hasty and focused only on the traffic lights to get all the green lights on my way. The car ahead of mine is burning some of the green lights because it's speeding. However, he is forced to stop in the last one, once it turns red. Has this happened to any of you? Rush all the way and be blocked in one of the last red signals? We move in a hurry and don't see the essential, and we burn important stages that can stop us, as a church in the mission of salvation. One of these stages are children, who instead of being crucial to the mission are being placed as optional. Making disciples out of our children today is a priority for the community, for the church and for the family. Children aren't born disciples, one needs to train them to become it. The church vision is not focused on the essential for the mission and Jesus is replacing priorities in chapter 6 of Mark.

Difficulties don't prevent Jesus from making disciples in his own house.

The chapter begins with Jesus finding many hardships in His ministry, at His own hometown and home. He needs to make double efforts to work at home, and when I say home, I mean working and valuing our own, something we sometimes fail to do. Jesus wanted to work and value His own despite being unwelcomed and not performing miracles, only a few healing episodes.

In Mark 6:4-5, we see three words reinforcing the importance of working with those who are closer to us. Our hometown means perhaps our friends and neighbors. Our relatives make you think in our family in general, and those we live with, our close family. It's always a bigger challenge to work at home and with those we're close to. Example is the strength that reinvigorates value to teaching. A consistency of actions and words that produce the discipleship effect. And we all know how a heart hardened by incoherency can close itself and become insensitive to the appeals of the Word of God. Therefore, Paul emphasizes we must be careful about pride and heartbreaks that prevent families to dialogue and that break intimate bonds that drive regular family worship moments with God. (Hebrews 12:14,15)

Ellen White, speaking about Christ and the grace He engaged in His garden, tells us how Jesus works to save the human family and especially the frail ones. (See in E. White, God's Amazing Grace, p.58) We should be extra careful with our church and home "garden". Jesus opposes this human trait of devalue our own. Even when it's hard, Jesus commits himself first with that mission of proximity to come closer to the families and children.

To make disciples you need teamwork

Here, we also see teamwork and cooperation. ►

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD



BUDDHISM

The founder of Buddhism, Siddharta Gautama (Buddha's birth name), set up rules to live happily in this life and those to come. He didn't pretend to be a god, so he is not worshiped as such, but highly respected.

Buddhists believe in reincarnation, that is, after their death they are reborn to live another life. The final phase of life is called nirvana, when all suffering ends, and is reached when a person has lived several lives. Important on the way to the nirvana is meditation, which requires years of training because a lot of concentration is necessary.

The symbol of Buddhism is the Dharmachakra, or wheel of chakra. It is displayed with eight spokes that symbolize the eight precepts Buddha outlined in his first sermon: right view; right resolve; right speech; right conduct; right livelihood; right effort; right mindfulness; right concentration (meditation).

In certain countries both boys and girls can take a vow to become a monk for some months. During their ordination, their heads are shaved and they receive the clothes of a monk. After this time, they can step back and live a normal life, get married and come back to the monastery when they get old. Monasteries are important places for coming together for special feasts during the year. Most feasts are celebrated at full moon or new moon. New Year is celebrated between March and April, even if it is not a religious feast. Wesak takes places between May and June and is held to celebrate Buddha's birth, illumination and death.

From: Brown, A. & Langley, A.: *Les Religions du Monde expliquées aux enfants*. Hachette Livre, France, 1999

Jesus sent the disciples in groups of two, the minimum number of people to form a group. We must work for the mission cooperating, allowing the synergy of all ministries, so that this engagement may produce a cohesive movement that can print strength through joined efforts and diversity of gifts.

Cooperation is vital when working with children, they can't do things alone, they need monitoring, training and together we complete the mission.

Both Jesus and the wise Solomon are concerned with underlining the importance of the strength that comes from unity. We're living difficult times, where personal interests are placed above global interests. The outcome is a divided and weakened society with a huge loss for the little ones. Single parents, isolated people, having a hard time finding sympathetic communities compromised with one another and with those who need the most support, children and elderly people. In Ecclesiastes 4, we get some answers but also questions about the foundation we must place in our teamwork. A sectioned calculation we must put together to the result ourselves: "Two are better than one,..." these are quantified by excellence in productivity, solidarity, intimacy and resilience, which we all aim to attain when building families and people at their best, and this starts with the wise child of verse 13. To reach out to a wise family, community, and church by avoiding corrupt and unstructured leadership with disastrous results for all.

Jesus' commandment for discipleship: focus on ours owns

Jesus also states the most important mission principle we must not lose out of sight: The work at households (v.10) and remain in only one household until the mission is accomplished, always focusing on the individual and blessing the families. After expelling demons and operating miracles in the name of Jesus, the disciples couldn't multiply the bread or calm the storm. They started well, but returned all successful and self-centered. By doing this, they lost Jesus' vision, who is the Master of the mission. Only Jesus has the power to save or educate disciples and

if we lose Him out of sight, despite doing God's work, we will lose our power and effectiveness. (2 Timothy 3: 5) The disciples started their mission in people's homes, getting close to the people and sharing values that changed lives. The most noble work is to restore lives within families. Blessing families through prayer, praise and sharing the Holy Scripture. "That home would be blessed by their prayers, their songs of praise, and the opening of the Scriptures in the family circle." Jesus also asked to nurturing our owns (v.37), in other words, feed your kids, your relatives, your family. What will we do? Are we willing to invest ourselves, our personal time, our resources or even make sacrifices in some way? Are we willing to trust solely in the divine provision?

Disciples after Jesus

In the center of this chapter is verse 31 Jesus said, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while". Accelerated disciples losing their way. They had to be stopped to rethink, refocus on the essential. Not losing Jesus out of sight. Stopping to be with Jesus. Focusing on what's important. A place to refocus on the mission. Jesus is always focused on saving people: children, youth, men and women. Nothing comes in the way of His vision. Not the rejection of His own people, the prejudice, the moral perversity of men or the inverted values of a fallen society. Christ calls His disciples to focus on the mission. This chapter states the principle of proximity. Jesus close to His own. Jesus close to the disciples. But it also states the principle of discipleship. Jesus turns His own people into disciples. Jesus sends disciples. Jesus gets closer to the disciples even when they lose Him out of sight. In the center of our mission is the mission of proximity and discipleship. And this requires an effort towards our own. As a team, God and church focused on the Word and under Jesus' command. ♦

Paula Amorim
Portuguese Union
CHM Director



JESUS

wants all of me

Wise Decision

What an interesting opportunity Salomon had before him when God asked what he wanted as a gift! When we can ask for whatever we want, we run the risk of not asking for the most important

or necessary thing. But Salomon didn't allow the opportunity to go waste. He asked to receive wisdom. Salomon didn't know, but he was already being wise in his decision.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God."

James 1:5

From: Ferreira de Oliveira, S.: *Talking with God*. Editorial Safeliz, Madrid, Spain, 2015

PRAYER OF **ANTONELLA**

Dear Jesus,
What face did people make when you worked miracles? Did you not want to laugh?

From: "Caro Gesù, potresti cambiare il sapore agli asparagi? 100 nuove letterine dei bambini a Gesù". Sonzogno Editore, Milano, 2007

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IN SYNERGY

Children's Ministries Projects: 3 D Missionary Projects

This year we started what we called 3D Missionary Projects in partnership with several departments and Adventist Institutions in Portugal. PMC3D is a discipleship project for children at Sabbath School, with the help of parents, to train and involve children in the mission and raise committed disciples. With 4 diverse projects per year, we began a project teaming up with CAOD (Adventist School in Oporto) to collect funds for the dorm bathrooms renovation. It was executed between January and April giving the churches an opportunity to work in their own territory in a missionary project led by the children. In doing so they helped renovate facilities that serve other children and youth in a visible way, seeing their efforts materialized. After this, we teamed up with the Evangelism Department for the distribution of the missionary book, on the 14th of April, where children and youth faced the challenge of delivering 5-10 books, contacting directly with people all over the country. More than 1000 children were involved, delivering more than 10.000 books and praying that these can bring many people to Jesus. For the third and fourth project we teamed up with ADRA, the first had the goal to collect school supplies to set up several school kits, to be delivered at schools with children in need and Friends for Christmas, to support another social cause and witness

of our faith through a musical concert. These projects are unique opportunities to train consistent minds with values that can impact the children present and future life within the society. But most important of all it's the synergy of means and resources in the different generations to create a stronger church and a more active one in the mission.

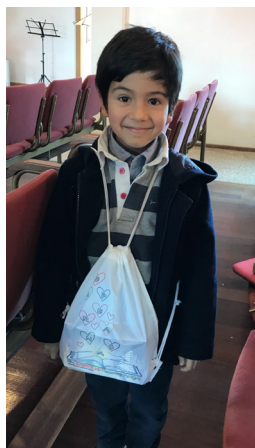
Paula Amorim
Portuguese Union
CHM Director



One testimony of the MC Officer involved in PMC3D:

When I became aware of the initiative to help CAOD with the "Dare to Support Internship ..." campaign, I was happy because I also attended the Adventist School in Lisbon (Infanta Dona Joana High School) and it made a difference in my life. In this time, it's helped me to strengthen my faith and to decide for baptism. And it was with joy that with my church I encouraged the children and adults to collaborate with what they could for the remodeling the facilities of Caod.

Sara Raposo, church of Alvalade



MEMORIZING BIBLE VERSES

Using Paper: Paper chain verse

Supplies:

- brightly colored paper
- paper cutter
- double sided tape with a backing strip
- markers
- copies of the verse to be learned

Instructions:

1. Stick a strip of double-sided tape along the edge of one side of the paper. Leave the backing strip in place, and then cut 2 cm strips across the width of the paper using a paper cutter. This will give you lots of narrow strips of paper with a small piece of tape at one end of the strip.
2. Give each child a selection of different colored strips of paper. They will need one strip for each word in the verse.
3. Ask the children to write one word of the verse on each strip of paper so the word is clearly visible.
4. Make paper chains by taking the first word strip and peeling the backing off the double sided tape and sticking the strip ends together to form a circle. Add the next word by looping the second strip through the first loop before sticking the ends together. Continue adding links until the whole verse is formed.
5. Hang the chain where everyone can see it. You won't be able to see all the words at once, but that doesn't matter. The words you can see will help you remember the ones you can't see.



From: Holford K: 100 creative ways 2 learn memory verses. With permission from GC CHM

SPECIAL NEED MINISTRIES

Five disability categories: 1. Physical



Children with physical disabilities need to understand that they are more than just their bodies. That is, their bodies (like yours) are containers for their souls, where they really live.

A soul is everything we think and feel on the inside.

Physical disabilities include cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, dwarfism, brittle bone disease, injuries, and health disorders.

Children with physical disabilities generally like to participate in all classroom activities, so you'll need to provide training that helps your volunteers assist them by anticipating their struggles and

planning alternative ways to play games or do crafts.

Volunteers also need to be prepared to handle toileting procedures, which can be a lifelong struggle for some children with disabilities. Don't assume a tour of duty in the nursery will prepare your staff for this; they may be dealing with older children who have social pressures surrounding this issue as well as physical needs.

Have parents fill out restroom questionnaires when enrolling their children in your program. This information can help volunteers assist kids while respecting their modesty.

From: Verbal, P: Special Needs Ministry for Children. Group Publishing, Loveland, USA, 2012

The training of children constitutes an important part of God's plan for demonstrating the power of Christianity. A solemn responsibility rests upon parents to so train their children that when they go forth into the world, they will do good and not evil to those with whom they associate.

The Adventist Home, p. 235



A wonderful whistle



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Incredi-Biblical

"He [the Lord] whistles for those at the ends of the earth. Here they come, swiftly and speedily!"

Isaiah 5:26

Michelle was lost. She sat down on a bench and searched the faces in the milling crowd for someone she recognized, but her mom, dad, and younger brother were nowhere to be seen.

Great, Michelle thought as she looked around at the confusing maze of World's Fair technology exhibits, massive art structures, and wide-open pavilions. *How in the world did we get separated? I'll never find my way out of here.*

Michelle knew it was best to stay in one place rather than wander around, so she waited on the bench under a flower basket

and impatiently watched the sun change positions in the sky. Suddenly she heard a familiar sound. She sat up and listened, tuning her ears to a distinctive whistle that echoed in the distance—a high, rising note that peaked, then cascaded sharply.

"Mom?" Michelle called, standing up and quickly scanning the mass of people revolving around her. The whistle came again, and Michelle turned to see small dots on the other side of the pavilion that resembled her parents.

Michelle pushed her way through the crowd until she reached the other side.

"There you are!" Mom said with relief.

"I heard your whistle," Michelle laughed, happy to find her family.

"I'm surprised you could hear me over all this noise," Mom told her.

"Well, I've been listening to your whistle since before I can remember," Michelle shrugged. "I guess I'm sort of tuned to it."

Info Splat

PUCCALO is the term used for the advanced art of mouth whistling. Different from a casual whistle, puccalo is considered a musical instrument that players can master to perform many kinds of music—from classical and jazz to blues and rock.

React now!

Does your family have a special call or whistle that you recognize? Are you tuned in to God so that you recognize His voice?

From: Bockmann, M. et al.: *Elasti-Brain*. 365 Devotions to Stretch your Mind and Shape your Faith. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2008

SECRETS FROM THE TREASURE CHEST



In my relationship with God, sometimes I feel close to Him, sometimes far away. Sometimes I want to know Him, and other times I could care less. Is this normal? What can I do to stay close to Jesus?

– Kacie, 14

When you have a few moments, read the book of Psalms. It'll be a real eye-opener!

Every Christian who has ever lived has experienced the very same conditions you're facing. Even Jesus Himself had moments of doubt and feelings of uncertainty while He walked the dusty paths of our sinful world.

Is it normal? Yes. Is it something we should just ignore? No way! We must fight to stay connected to our heavenly Father at every moment. Why? Because any feeling that draws us away from God has been placed in our mind by the devil himself.

A working relationship with God

isn't supposed to be a constant high. Jesus cried, experienced deep concern, felt inadequate, weathered loneliness—all of the emotions we cope with. But his foundation faith was strong.

You see, Kacie, faith isn't a feeling. It's a piece of knowledge we hold firmly in our minds. Faith says, "No matter how I feel, I know Jesus loves me. I know I'm valuable to Him. I know He will save me." Then, when we feel far away, or find ourselves not caring, we step up on that foundation faith and say, "These are only feelings. I do care. I'm not far away."

Second Corinthians 5:7 says, "For we

walk by faith, not by sight." We mustn't walk by feelings, either.



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From: Mills, C.: *Secrets from the Treasure Chest. Questions Kids ask about Life*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 1996



ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Portuguese Union

Teen and Children National Choir

The creation of the Teen and Children National Choir was an initiative of the Union's Music and Liturgy Service partnering with the Children's Ministries Department. It aims to provide and increase the sense of belonging to the community of faith, to develop the will to serve God through the Music along with the development of skills that may allow a more regular and capable participation in their own local churches.

Through this project, children and teens, some of them with low possibilities to participate in a large group of people of the same age range, with the same core of values and beliefs, had the chance to work under a maestro regency with an orchestra with a large number of different instruments.

Until now, the choir participated in national activities such as the Spiritual Assembly that closed the 2017's Union's administrative session, the ASI National

convention and the 2018's National Spiritual Assembly that took place last May.

All together, participated around 150 children and teens, with the numbers varying from one activity to another from 50 to 130 participants.

This work wouldn't be possible without parents and local coordinators cooperation. Only their amazing service spirit, abnegation and sacrifice to give them opportunities to train locally, to be present in the regional rehearsals and the help they provide for the logistics in the presentation days and sites make this project possible.

In the future, we hope to program other activities that won't be dependent on "adults" activities, in order to engage children and contribute to pass on the word of the near second coming of Jesus Christ, in a service perspective, developing skills that, aside with the nurturing of spiritual growth of children and teens, help and motivate them to Praise God with excellency.

Children's Day 2017

On October 21, 2017, the Seventh Day Adventist Church of Oliveira do Douro celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Using the program prepared by the Ministries of Children of the Inter-European Division (Rise and Shine ... In the footsteps of the Reformers), the Children's Ministries of our church, with the help of Pastor and with the active participation of children and of all the teachers of the children's classes, provided the whole church with a moment of reflection, learning and adoration. It was intended above all to show the impact that the reform movement had on the current church and to reflect on the courage, faith, conviction and confidence of Martin Luther in the way he presented the truth revealed so far. We also remember that the freedom we have to worship God is a blessing made possible by our "Parents of the Reformation" and that we have a light that we must let shine and never erase. The program began at the time of the worship service, where the children had the opportunity to present the message to the whole church. In the afternoon, the moment was of learning, in a playful way, about the various stages of the reformation and the influence of Martin Luther. This intergenerational meeting contributed in a very positive way to the building of our church, providing the opportunity to relive important moments in the history of Christianity.



Children's Prayer Meeting

As I looked for the first time at my church's prayer meeting, I immediately noticed that it was not attended by children and the presence of adults was also scarce. It's a overview I already knew and it really bothered me. The Lord then brought to my mind the well-known text of Proverbs 22: 6: "Instruct the child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." If we want to have prayer meetings full of adults who are going to bend their knees to speak with the Lord, we must teach the children right now, from today, that we speak with Jesus through prayer. We have to show

them how to do, train with them, live the moment of prayer with them. That's what the prayer meeting is for. Then the church of Odivelas appeared the prayer meeting for the child. It occurs in parallel with the adult prayer meeting, but with an appropriate program for children. The main objectives of this meeting are to teach them how to pray, to enjoy prayer, to talk with Jesus, and to teach them how to thank and praise before asking. It is very short and always directed for the teaching of prayer. The vast majority of the time is spent praying. How to spend so much time in prayer with children? In the same way as we began to do in our

prayer meeting with adults: with different prayer dynamics every week. One week we teach them to thank for the privilege of serving Jesus with the different parts of our body, in the other we teach them to praise God for all that He is resorting to diverse objects and this makes every week come alive and with willingness to pray. We went from a prayer meeting that was regularly attended by half a dozen adults and no children for two prayer meetings in which we have an average of 40 adults and about 10 children. If we want to have future prayer adults who attend prayer meetings of your church, it is urgent that we teach you today!

Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2018



July 29

Children's Sabbath

SDA worldwide official day

Make plans for your territory

July 31-August 4

GC Youth Leadership Congress
Kassel, **Germany**

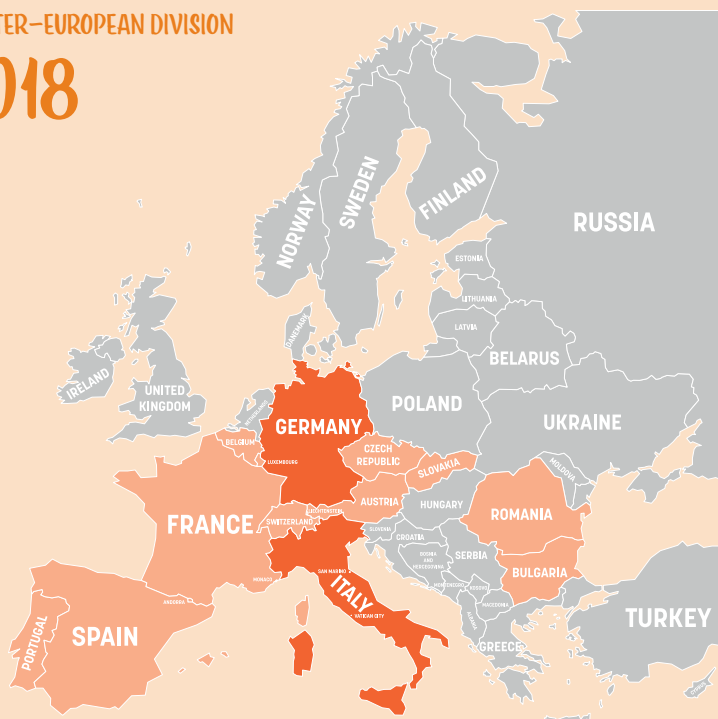
August 25

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day*
Worldwide

*Ask for available resources

September 21-24

Children's Congress
Sicily, **Italy**



SAVE THE DATE!

2019

September 18-22

People 7.0. Forward Together

Interministries Summit

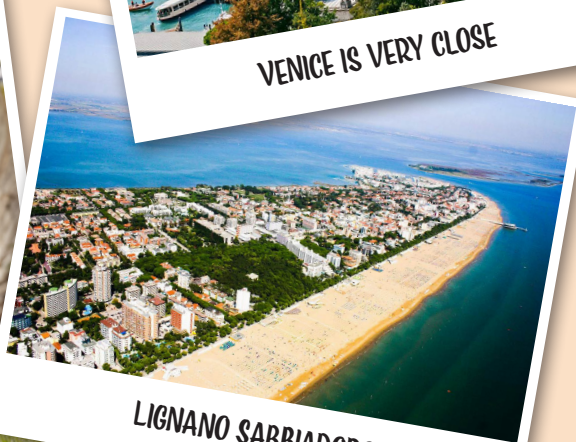
Organized by

Children's / Family / Women's Ministries
Lignano Sabbiadoro (Venice), **Italy**

Very
important event for
all people involved in CHM /
FM / WM – and others.
Write it already on your agenda
for 2019!



VENICE IS VERY CLOSE



LIGNANO SABBIAADORO



MAKE SURE YOU COME!

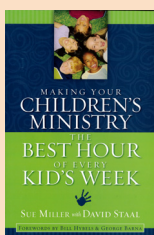


Ten ways to involve children in the Scripture reading

1. A group of children could learn one of the Bible verses in the passage, and then repeat their memorized verses in sequence to complete the Scripture reading.
2. Older children and teens could be invited to create an attractive PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the Scripture reading.
3. Ask children to read the Scripture readings and then say a few words about what the passage means to them.
4. Invite some children to create a mime, or actions, to illustrate the Scripture reading.
5. If the Bible passage is also a Scripture song, a family or Sabbath School class could learn the song and sing it instead of reading the verses.
6. Ask the children to do a silent action each time certain words in the Scripture are read, such as pointing to heaven when God is mentioned, or making a heart shape with their hands when love is mentioned, etc.
7. Older children could research the context for the passage and say a few words about the background to the verses before the Scripture reading.
8. Choose several children and give them different Bible verses from the Scripture reading. Ask them to illustrate the verse in any way they like—a photo, some abstract art, a painting, etc. Photograph their work and use the pictures to create a PowerPoint presentation of the Scripture reading.
9. Make a word-search puzzle using an Internet puzzle-maker site. Include the key words from a long Scripture passage, or all the words from a shorter reading. As the children search for the words during the service, the important message from the Scriptures will be seeping into their memory. Or create a coded text or
10. Help children to remember the Scripture reading by giving them attractive, printed bookmarks of the key texts. Or let them hunt for the words of a text around the church, and hold them in the correct order in front of the congregation. Use the theme of the text to suggest an activity that might involve the children.

From: Holford, K.: *Altogether Wonderful. Exploring Intergenerational Worship*. With permission from GC CHM

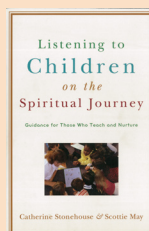
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



MAKING YOUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY THE BEST HOUR OF EVERY KID'S WEEK

Sue Miller & David Staal

Big or small, your children's ministry can ignite in young hearts faith that grows and spreads in ways you never dreamed. Saturday morning can be absolutely the most exciting, fun-filled time of the week for children. The authors share insights that can reshape your whole approach to children's ministry and cast a new vision for everyone involved.



LISTENING TO CHILDREN ON THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Catherine Stonehouse & Scottie May

This book is an important addition to recent literature and research on the spiritual formation of children. The fine work by the authors, long committed to the spiritual nurture of children, should lay to rest any doubts about the capacity of children to know, love, worship, and experience God in ways that put to shame many adults.



THE 1,000 STICKER BIBLE STORYBOOK

Cecilie Fodor (Ed)

With more than 1,000 stickers and cute, colorful illustrations, there are plenty of opportunities to make timeless Bible stories stick with this interactive Bible Sticker Storybook.



BIBLE FUN STUFF FOR AGES 5-7

David C. Cook

Here are 26 creative activities to engage students with insightful and intriguing science experiments! This book is loaded with innovative ideas, as well as Scripture references and teacher tips. This handy resource fits well with any curriculum or can be used for stand-alone activities. Kids love a good slimy activity and things that go boom. So put on your lab coats and get ready to show 5- to 7-year olds God's amazing, awesome world! From electricity to basic chemistry, these simple science and nature explorations reinforce biblical truths.



Producer: Elsa Cozzi
Editor: Regina Fleischmann

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