

Teaching the Bible to Nursery and Infant Children

Matthew 19v14 "Suffer the little children..."

What are our responsibilities as Bible teachers?

"The real power in Sunday School teaching is not methods, important as it is to have the best of these, nor in equipment, valuable as this is, but in the teacher's own spiritual life "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit "is the divine revealing of the secret of power in all Christian work" - J.R.Miller

The primary responsibility of teaching children about the Lord is given to their parents (Deut 6 v 5-9) but the church also has a great role to play in the spiritual battle for their souls.



A good book about the teacher's responsibilities is called "The Devotional life of a Sunday School teacher" by J.R.Miller

It sets out the responsibilities as follows:

Love to Christ is paramount.

The teacher's aim: Winning the pupils to Christ.

Preparation of teacher's life and of his/her lesson.

Always aim at the heart.

Living must go before teaching

The teacher represents Christ.

Cultivating our spiritual life by prayer and the word.

The primary place of the Bible in life and teaching.

The teacher and walking in the Spirit.

Who are the teachers?

Matthew 5 v 16 "Let your light shine..."

Do NOT have to be a teacher by profession. Using young people to teach should be avoided as they usually have their own Bible Studies to attend. Ideally (especially in Sunday schools where there is a service at the same time) the same people should not be used every week as they miss out on the teaching. We all need feeding.

If you are a leader then the recruiting of teachers will be an issue you have to deal with along side the church leaders. The book "Sharing Jesus with under fives" by Janet Gaukrogersuggests using a letter to approach a prospective teacher as this doesn't put pressure on them to answer immediately and consequently they can consider and pray about this important role.

What are the needs of these children?

We will discuss these individually

- Love (of teacher and the Lord)
- Acceptance
- Security
- Trust
- Discipline and guidance
- Dependence and independence
- Spiritual

How do children learn at this age?

Again we will discuss

- Curiosity
- Imitating
- Play
- Physical senses
- Repetition
- Relationships
- Doing

What do we teach the children?

Our aim is to build their knowledge of the Bible and lead them towards a relationship with God. Peter Masters in his book "The necessity of Sunday Schools" emphasises the need of teaching children the reality of the Bible and not reading it as a story. We should endeavour to teach the children about God's path of salvation every week (the urgency is great).

Useful themes would be: