

Preaching/Teaching The Word To Children
A Workshop By Russell Smith

I. Nine Principles For Preaching/Teaching The Bible to Children

- A. Children **NEED** preaching and teaching
 - a. Preaching is **INSPIRATION**
 - i. It answers the **"HOW"** and **"WHY"** questions
 - b. Teaching is **INFORMATION**
 - i. It answers the **"WHAT"**, **"WHO"**, **"WHEN"**, and **"WHERE"** questions

- B. Spend adequate time in **PREPARATION**
 - a. **PRAYER**
 - i. Jesus prayed
 1. Mark 6:46
 2. Luke 11:1 & 9
 3. John 18:1
 4. Luke 18:1-8
 - ii. **BELIEVE** God for anything
 1. Mark 9:23
 2. Matthew 21:22
 - b. **STUDY** (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - i. Be **DILIGENT**
 - ii. Be **CONFIDENT**
 - iii. Be **CORRECT**
 - c. Take time **EVERY DAY** to prepare
 - d. Good preparation will help eliminate **DISCIPLINE** problems
 - e. Prepare your **HEART** along with the lesson

- C. Preach and teach concerning **ALL** Biblical truth
 - a. Christian **BASICS**
 - i. God's Word
 - ii. Prayer
 - iii. Worship
 - iv. Witnessing
 - v. Obedience
 - b. **FUNDAMENTAL** truths
 - i. Salvation
 - ii. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - iii. Divine Healing
 - iv. Rapture
 - c. **CHARACTER** issues
 - i. Honesty

- ii. Humility
- iii. Kindness/Compassion
- iv. Love
- d. **SERVANTHOOD**
- e. Bible character studies

D. RELATE to children on their **LEVEL**

- a. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
- b. 1 Corinthians 13:11
- c. You can be **CHILDLIKE** without being **CHILDISH**
- d. Understand the importance of **GROUPING** children according to **AGE**
- e. **RESPECT** the **ATTENTION SPAN** of children
 - i. **ONE** minute for each year of age
 - ii. Focus on the **MIDDLE** attention span

E. Children must UNDERSTAND God's Word in their **MIND** as well as their **SPIRIT**

- a. Parable of the **SOWER** (Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23)
- b. Key Verse - Matthew 13:19
- c. Do not merely preach/teach **FACTS**; make sure you are preaching/teaching **PRINCIPLES**
- d. Your message should be...
 - i. **SPIRITUAL**
 - ii. **LOGICAL**
 - iii. **PRACTICAL**

F. Preach/teach one CENTRAL IDEA or THEME

- a. Everything you do in your service/class should **REFLECT** and **REINFORCE** the theme
- b. Children should be able to **SUMMARIZE** what they've **LEARNED** in **ONE THOUGHT or SENTENCE**
- c. Children need **REPETITION** in order to learn

G. Be VISUAL

- a. Simple **PROPS**
- b. **OBJECT** lessons
- c. **CHARACTERS**
- d. Video
- e. **DRAMA**
- f. Power Point
- g. Remember: The **MESSAGE** is far more important than the **METHOD**

- H. The preacher's/teacher's main goal is to present the Word in such a manner that children will immediately be able to **ACT** on what they have heard
 - a. Matthew 7:24-27
 - b. James 1:22

- I. **INVITATIONS** should be given to allow children to **RESPOND** to the preaching/teaching of God's Word and the moving of His Spirit