

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 93: DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESCHOOL PARENTS

OUTLINE BY JIM ROBINSON

In Deuteronomy 6:6-8, Moses told the people: “These commandments (Bible truths) I give you today must be in your hearts. Make sure your children know them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up.” In other words – to those who teach and guide children. Regular Sunday Bible study attendance is simply not enough to lay foundations of faith. Teachers and parents must work together. Opportunities to plant biblical concepts occur in the child’s every-day-of-life both at home and at church but the home is the very center of biblical instruction.

Every preschool event or ministry should somehow include parents. Parents must understand your purpose, goals and methods of teaching. Wise teachers strive to develop a relationship with parents. Below are some tips for developing these relationships.

Contacts: Phone calls, notes, e-mails, and home visits are still the best ways to encourage parents and to demonstrate how important it is to instruct the child. A home visit is especially significant because the teacher observes the child’s daily environment and gets a chance to discover other needs the family may be experiencing. A teacher who takes the time and effort to make a home visit demonstrates her love and care for the child and his family. A home visit is also a great time to share the gospel and lead the parents to Christ. Share your own testimony. Pray, be bold, and share. Make it a goal to home visit at least twice a year. Always take preschool Bible story literature, a child’s activity, a church brochure and other materials.

Parent-Teacher Events: About once a quarter plan an evening when parents and teachers can have fellowship and study how the preschool teachers use their room set up and play to teach preschoolers basic biblical concepts. Parents can then learn how they can catch teachable moments at home to teach the same biblical truths and concepts. Parents will realize that we have a plan and that it’s not just babysitting.

Another idea is to have Sunday School at night. Call it “NatureFest” or “ArtFest” to give it an exciting name. Choose a weekend night and invite parents to bring their preschooler for a fun evening of Bible stories, games, crafts, music and food. Each class will have their own children and their parents. Prepare childcare for older siblings. This event is for preschoolers only and their parents. At the end of the class time invite everyone to a larger room for snacks and a slide show of the preschoolers in Sunday School (slides you have taken in advance). The slides should show the children involved in Bible learning (group time, singing, art, reading a book, painting, etc.).

Ask Parents to Volunteer: As parents join a preschool teaching team, they will discover how to capture a teachable moment as an opportunity to plant a spiritual truth that helps preschoolers apply God’s Word. A teachable moment is when a child is focused on an activity, asks a question or completes a task that gives the teacher an opportunity to share a Biblical truth – a truth that a preschooler can apply “right now”. Note: Make sure each adult is background screened before he or she is assigned.

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 93: DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESCHOOL PARENTS

OUTLINE BY JIM ROBINSON

In Deuteronomy 6:6-8, Moses told the people: “These commandments (Bible truths) I give you today must be in your hearts. Make sure your children know them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up.” In other words – to those who teach and guide children. Regular Sunday Bible study attendance is simply not enough to lay foundations of faith. Teachers and parents must work together. Opportunities to plant biblical concepts occur in the child’s every-day-of-life both at home and at church but the home is the very center of biblical instruction.

Every preschool event or ministry should somehow include parents. Parents must understand your purpose, goals and methods of teaching. Wise teachers strive to develop a relationship with parents. Below are some tips for developing these relationships.

_____ : Phone calls, notes, e-mails, and home visits are still the best ways to encourage parents and to demonstrate how important it is to instruct the child. A home visit is especially significant because the teacher observes the child’s daily environment and gets a chance to discover other needs the family may be experiencing. A teacher who takes the time and effort to make a home visit demonstrates her love and care for the child and his family. A home visit is also a great time to share the gospel and lead the parents to Christ. Share your own testimony. Pray, be bold, and share. Make it a goal to home visit at least twice a year. Always take preschool Bible story literature, a child’s activity, a church brochure and other materials.

_____ : About once a quarter plan an evening when parents and teachers can have fellowship and study how the preschool teachers use their room set up and play to teach preschoolers basic biblical concepts. Parents can then learn how they can catch teachable moments at home to teach the same biblical truths and concepts. Parents will realize that we have a plan and that it’s not just babysitting.

Another idea is to have Sunday School at night. Call it “NatureFest” or “ArtFest” to give it an exciting name. Choose a weekend night and invite parents to bring their preschooler for a fun evening of Bible stories, games, crafts, music and food. Each class will have their own children and their parents. Prepare childcare for older siblings. This event is for preschoolers only and their parents. At the end of the class time invite everyone to a larger room for snacks and a slide show of the preschoolers in Sunday School (slides you have taken in advance). The slides should show the children involved in Bible learning (group time, singing, art, reading a book, painting, etc.).

_____ : As parents join a preschool teaching team, they will discover how to capture a teachable moment as an opportunity to plant a spiritual truth that helps preschoolers apply God’s Word. A teachable moment is when a child is focused on an activity, asks a question or completes a task that gives the teacher an opportunity to share a Biblical truth – a truth that a preschooler can apply “right now”. Note: Make sure each adult is background screened before he or she is assigned.