

“Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.”

Dr. Benjamin Spock

“Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.

Rabindranath Tagore

ENTHUSIASM

A few weeks ago I was talking to someone who had just completed a week of teaching Vacation Bible School. She had been in charge of the presentation of the story and the video. She said “I talked with the children about the movie ‘Shrek’ which many of them had seen. We remembered together how wonderful it had been when the three little pigs appeared and the gingerbread man, and how we always loved to be reminded of these much loved stories. I told the children,” she said, “that the story of Jesus, and the stories Jesus told, were the very **best** stories of all. However often we hear them, they are always exciting and fresh, and we never ever tire of hearing them again.”

That is enthusiasm. Those children couldn't wait to hear the day's story and didn't want to miss the next day or the day after.

Remember how people reacted to the early Christians. It was their behaviour and their enthusiasm that really caught people's attention. These people were so excited about Jesus that they were willing to die for their faith in him. Theologian, Walter Bruggeman says this, “If you ask almost any adult about the impact of church school on his or her growth, he or she will not tell you about books or curriculum or Bible stories or anything like that. The central memory is of the teacher, learning is meeting.”

Be enthusiastic and excited about teaching Church school. Get to know the children in your class. Ask them how their week went. Find out about the exciting events in their lives, and what is bothering them. Show you are interested in them. Tell them how **your** week went. Be prepared for your class, and be excited about the lesson, but don't expect to know everything, and don't worry if you don't. Be honest and say, “I don't know that but let's find out.” Children will respond to your lesson when they know you care for them and are passionate about the gospel.

FOR FUN

All the animals went into the ark in pairs, except the worms.
They went in in apples.

Workshops in 2001-2002

Building Blocks for Teaching Church School

- Three Saturdays during 2001/2002
All three days will be given in Fredericton and in Moncton and in Saint John.
- Choose the place most convenient for you.
- Workshops are mainly intended for those who are working with children, or may wish to do so, but they are open to anyone who is interested.
- A certificate of participation will be presented to those who attend all three workshops.

Day 1

Why have Church school? Children's Faith Development.

Video - Angels in the Making - and discussion
Our faith story as told in the Hebrew Scriptures
Reading the Bible-why and how

Day 2

New Testament Overview
Learning styles
Prayer for adults and children

Day 3

The Sacraments: Holy Communion and Baptism
Classroom Management
Creativity in the Classroom

Day 1 : October 13, St Andrew's, Sunny Brae,
Elmwood Drive, Moncton.

October 20, St John the Evangelist Church Hall,
Main St, Fredericton North

November 3, St Mary and St Bartholomew's,
Westmorland Rd., East Saint John.

Day 2 will be in February and Day 3 in April/May.
For full details see September NB Anglican.

Working with glue

Put a quarter sized amount of glue on a plastic lid, and give each child a cotton swab to dip into it. There'll be much less mess!