



THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

The ENCOURAGER
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USING YOUR HOME

As Christmas approached, Linda wondered how she might impact her neighborhood. She decided to get her children involved and have a 'Birthday Party for Jesus'. Linda and her kids worked together on the project. They designed invitations and then walked house to house in the surrounding neighborhood handing out the invitations to kids who were in their age range. As each mother came to the door, Linda explained that they were hand-delivering invitations to a very special birthday party for a very special Person.

Linda was careful not to hide the intent of the party to the mothers. In fact, she explained clearly what their kids would be doing—celebrating the birth of the One who Christmas is all about by singing songs about Jesus and having a birthday cake... playing games such as "Pin the Tail on Mary's Donkey"... having an all-around blast! As the highlight, Linda would read the Christmas Story from a book written in simple words about the birth of the Greatest Person who ever lived.

Mother after mother was thrilled with the idea and excited about their children going to the party. Some mothers wanted to come too! Linda involved her kids at every step. The kitchen was transformed into a 'goody factory' as they made Goody Bags for every party-goer. And to emphasize the ultimate purpose of the gathering Linda gathered her kids around the table daily to pray for every invited child. After all, the purpose was to let them know that God loved them so much that He sent His only Son to change their lives... and their parents as well.

The first party was several years ago. Linda has continued to have a birthday party for Jesus every year. It has provided numerous opportunities to share how the Guest of Honour at the party can take up residence in the lives of the kids, and adults, who attend.

- Excerpt from A CHALLENGE TO FULFILL YOUR CALLING

Now perhaps this would have been better provided in November or December but it is offered here so that you can think about ways you might be able to use your home to impact others in your community. Your ideas may be very different from Linda's but we should all ask ourselves 'What can we do to use our lives and homes as a center to impact others for Christ?'

SO..... WHAT WOULD YOU DO ?



A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of The Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama.

Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."