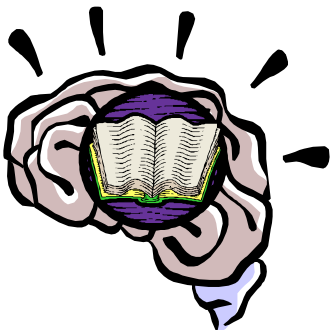


THE ENCOURAGER

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

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It Has Been Proven

Reading 2 Timothy 3:15 makes us aware of the enduring value of memorizing the scriptures. *In this issue, we once again bring you some apt suggestions from the late Ormer G.C. Sprunt who was well known for skill and effective Teaching.*

It has been proven that people of all ages can memorize the scriptures. Young people find it easier, of course, than those who are well on in years.

Seeking to store the minds and hearts of boys and girls with the scriptures is a matter of great responsibility. It means much, because it lays the foundation for the Spirit of God to work upon. Dr. Oscar Lowry in his book "Memorizing of Scripture for Soul-Winning," says that "the Spirit of God and the Word of God are closely associated, for the Spirit reveals the way of escape by applying the Word of God," and "The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to convict the sinner and to show the sinner his need of the Saviour."

A few years ago, a young woman from out of town and her husband were doing business in the city. In the course of conversation she told me that she had just gotten saved. She said that after coming to the city she met a woman who was seeking salvation through a cult. She herself was brought up in a Sunday School where she had learned goodly portions of the Word of God, but was not saved. She tried to point the woman to God's way of salvation. Whilst quoting the scriptures she had learned in childhood, she herself was convicted of sin! After going home and getting alone, she was in real soul trouble and so much so, that on the very same night, she accepted Christ as her own personal Saviour. It was through the Scriptures she had learned as a girl in the Sunday School.

Timothy, the young man to whom Paul, the apostle, was writing was no doubt saved under Paul's preaching; but he is reminded here of the interest and care of others when he was a child. We learn from the 2Timothy 1: who were the responsible ones for his early training. It was his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois.

NOTICE it was 'from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures.' It was not merely 'as' a child, but 'from' a child. Now that has a great deal of weight and I want you to notice too that it was 'able to make wise unto salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus'.

Sometimes children are given memory verses to learn such as "Pray without ceasing,"

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How could it be?

A man and his granddaughter are talking together when the young girl asks, "Did God make you Grandpa?" "Yes, God made me," the grandfather answers. A few minutes later, the little girl asks him, "Did God make me too?" "Yes, He did," the elderly man answers. For a few minutes the little girl seemed to be studying her grandpa, and he wonders what might be running through her mind.

At last she speaks up. "You know, Grandpa," she says, "God's doing a much better job lately!"

(It has been proven... Continued from page 1)

“Honour the Lord with the firstfruits of thine increase,” “If a man love me, let him keep my commandments,” “Son, give me thine heart,” which are all God’s Word but more suitable for those who are saved. Memory verses should be given that would lead them to a knowledge of Christ—“to make wise unto salvation!” Verses that are difficult to understand are sometimes given, and ought not to be. One young man told me when he was a child he was given the verse to learn, “I am Alpha and Omega,” for a long time he wondered what it meant. One day he was out in the country and heard someone speak of a field of Alfalfa and he thought that was what Alpha meant!

It is a very responsible position for a teacher to have the care of the scholar for a brief hour once a week. All children have not the care of a godly mother and grandmother as Timothy had. Therefore how important it is that we get the children to memorize the Scriptures!

Spurgeon said, “Store the minds of boys and girls with the Word of God. You may not see any results. It may just lie there as stones thrown on top of the frozen river in winter, but, then, when the warmth of Spring comes and melts the ice, the stones sink in, and so it is with the Word of God.” When that lad and girl grow up and you begin to wonder and think it is all of no use, they are brought under the sound of the Gospel at some special meetings—and it may be that when the warm rays of Calvary shine upon those hearts—they will melt and the Word will sink in, taking effect.

I believe that the work of the teachers would be greatly strengthened if they taught the scholars to repeat portions of the Scriptures, remembering that a few Scriptures memorized are more powerful than all your words.

The teachers of the three Sunday School works in connection with our assembly, towards the end of the year, select a chapter that is to be learned for the Special Treat prize at the end of the year. That chapter is divided up in sections to suit the age of the scholars. Any that want to learn the whole chapter are encouraged to do so. We have had children as young as six years repeat the whole of the first chapter of John’s Gospel of 51 verses correctly, without a single mistake.

A young boy, of Roman Catholic background, was attending one of the Sunday Schools, where he was given a Bible. The priest told him that it was a bad book and tried to take it from him. He didn’t want to give it up, but was forced to do so. At the same time, he said, “I thank God that you cannot take away the twenty chapters that I have in my heart!”

When we think of the responsibility that it places upon us, how much more important it is to see that the children memorize the Word of God. When our children were small, we used to teach them to repeat any verse of Scripture on their knees before getting into bed. Then following that we had them say their Sunday School memory verse for the next Lord’s Day. We don’t believe in teaching them prayers.

When we see error abounding on every hand, and increasingly so, we should be more careful to see that the children commit to memory the Word of God. Get the Word in, and God will see to it that it will prosper. He said, “My Word shall not return to me void.”

*“Store the mind
with
the
Word
of God.”*

C.H.SPURGEON

Kid’s Korner



A four year old boy newly arrived from Romania had joined my preschool age class, and his parents told me that he was just learning to speak English. I was worried about how he’d fit into the group as the other kids were already involved in the world of Power Rangers, Pokemon, Barbie and all the newest and latest so called superheroes.

In order to start things off on the right foot, I asked him after our class, if he’d like to be called “Dan” or “Danny” - as his mom had called him when she dropped him off. To my amazement, he answered firmly in a slightly accented voice, “I’d like to be called ‘Batman!’” - You just never know.

And then.....

There is the father who laments the fact that three of his children are in graduate school. Some could well wish that their family was as accomplished and distinguished. But

He says he’s getting poorer by degrees!