

THE ENCOURAGER

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

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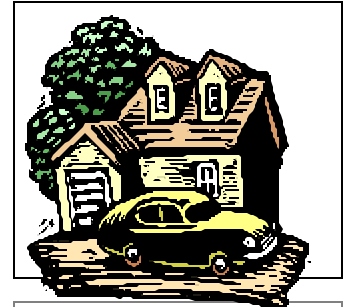
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The Importance of Doing Something

We certainly do need to do more praying. But is praying enough? We know that God can and will answer prayer. He is mightily able to work in the lives of the small and great! He is the One we need to turn to when it comes to having the wisdom and approach that might draw new ones and sustain the rest in our Sunday School and Children's Efforts. But is that all that is necessary?

Sure, we can pray that the Lord will bring them in, but He may be planning on using our car to get them there. He may well have in mind that we should be the one who knocks on the door and show forth His love in a genuine and caring way.



**Knock on the door and
show forth His love**

And after they come... what then? Sometimes there is a little excitement about a new experience and a new class—but at times, there is also a shyness and a natural reluctance that might hinder participation. Sometimes other children are not as welcoming as they could be and at times the newcomer is made to feel awkward because they don't know the routine or the rest of the group. It's uncomfortable to be in a strange place where it seems you are the only one who doesn't know what is going on.

Let's not dehumanize the newcomers. Let them know that we are interested in them and their family not just in increasing our numbers. Introduce them to several others both amongst the children and SS Staff. Tell them what to do and who to see if they have a question or concern. Arrange for a ride for them if necessary and give them a name card with a telephone number which they can use to make contact.

Let's tell them how you felt when you first came and what a difference it has made in your life. Perhaps let them in on a secret part of the next week's lesson so they will be the one who is more in the know than even the regulars.

Give them a call during the week just to remind them and answer any concerns their parents may have. Inform the parents as to the schedule of events and happenings—if possible check to see if they'd like you to drop by and bring them up to speed. Assure them that you will keep them informed as to special events. Tell the new ones you'll be looking for them next week and will help them get better acquainted. Next week, make sure that you are watching for them so you can stick by them till they feel more comfortable and so they can rely on you if they need assistance.

Call others who work with you during the week and tell them a little about the person you are expecting and give them a heads-up so they'll watch for their opportunity to cheerfully welcome your guest as well.

As they attend and you get to know them little by little — call them or drop by from time to time and thank them for their attendance, and let them know that you enjoy having them come along. Pursue ways to deepen the relationship with the children and the family. Schedule lunch together, or invite the family over for pizza (or take it to their house), send notes on special days like birthdays etc.

Now we have something to do—let's do it! And see what God can do too.



HOW IT LOOKS FROM HERE....

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to the main auditorium, "And why is it necessary to be quiet during the services?" Little Annie whispered, "Because people are sleeping!"