

THE ENCOURAGER

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

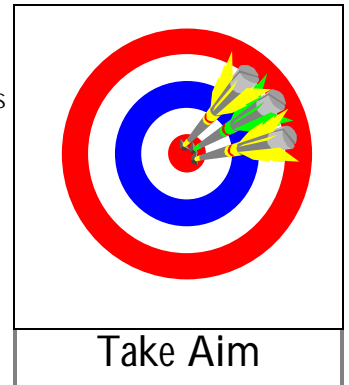
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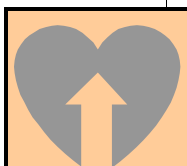
READY.....TAKE AIMFIRE!

Ready must come first! When it comes to speaking to children or anyone for that matter... you must get ready. Perhaps lack of readiness is the greatest hindrance to getting the job done.

Did you ever get to Saturday evening and realize... "Uh-oh! It's Saturday night and I'm not ready for my class tomorrow"? Well, if you've been there (I have) you must realize that there is not much you can do at that late hour— except perhaps to organize a review (hopefully with a little something to make it a bit exciting so it won't look like you really weren't ready) or you could wing it (not advised!) in the hope that the Lord has mercy on you.



To be a person of faith does not mean you are not a person who plans. We need to remember the saying of the Revolutionary War, "Trust in God, but keep your powder dry!" Why was the attack on Pearl Harbour so successful on that lazy, hazy, laid-back Hawaiian Sunday morning? As we read the records now, we hear admissions like, "We weren't ready. We never expected it." You could face the biggest challenge of your teaching career one of those Sunday mornings when you are insufficiently prepared! The most critical questions of all time could present themselves. The deepest need can be thrust upon us when we least expect it. If it is worth doing, it is worth doing well. Sunday School and Children's Work is worth doing. Make sure you're ready. Get the truth you intend to teach clearly in your own mind (do a quick check to make sure you are living and practicing the truth yourself!) - develop a lesson plan. Think through what examples or illustrations you might utilize and have them handy for use. Make sure you have considered how you'll get their attention and keep it! Don't ignore the need to know how you'll bring the lesson to a conclusion. The gun needs to be loaded with the right kind of ammunition.



Take Aim. When you are ready. It is a good idea to be ready as early in the week as possible while your memory is still fresh from the previous class. Then you can have the remainder of the time to focus on how to present the message or lesson where it counts. Remember this is not merely a lesson for the head. We are not teaching academic subjects. This is a lesson for the heart. Only God can help you reach the heart. He knows the heart. *"The heart is deceitful above all things... who can know it? I the LORD search the heart."* Jer. 17:9-10. A good clear lesson goal or aim or theme should become very evident and that ought to be the thrust of the whole lesson. It is so important to remember where we are going with the lesson, because if we don't know—no one else will either! And that is a waste of good ammunition.

Fire! The moment has come. The opportunity is before you. The quarry is in your sights. You know what you're trying to do. Priceless souls are in the balance. God given opportunity has presented itself. The time is short and a second chance may never come your way. Fire!

O SAY, "CAN YOU SEE?"

Vision is essential for survival. It is spawned by faith, sustained by hope, sparked by imagination, and strengthened by enthusiasm. It is greater than sight, deeper than a dream, broader than an idea. Vision encompasses vast vistas outside the realm of the predictable, the safe, the expected. No wonder we perish without it. CRS
"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

