



THE ENCOURAGER

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

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Discouragements

Every worthwhile cause will have to encounter difficulties: and these are generally proportionate to the value of the object to be accomplished! Doing the right thing is not a path of flowers. The faithful teacher will meet with many discouragements. Sometimes we meet with a *lack of receptiveness*. Oftentimes *ingratitude* on the behalf of both students and fellow believers wears us down. *Lack of success* can often prove daunting. Nevertheless—we need to remind ourselves that God is able to use our weakness and that He will accomplish that which He pleases in His own good time and way.



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TOOLS FOR TEACHERS

Overhead projectors are an excellent tool for Sunday School or Children's Work. *These suggestions and Ideas come from Lorne Nathe of the Carlton Assembly in Vancouver, Canada. We have used one for 15-20 years. There are several advantages.*

1. The children look up when singing—not down at a book.
2. The print is larger which helps with ESL (English as a Second Language) students and older Christians.
3. To introduce a new song—you don't have to wait till it is printed in the hymnbook—you can teach it almost right away
4. It is easier to teach new songs as you can block verses and show only the one verse you are learning.
5. Simple graphics can be supplied. *I am sure we have all noticed how the children relate to a song in the hymnbook that has a graphic*
6. Hands are free for action choruses
7. The transparencies (which the printing is done on) last for years
8. Bible questions and Tic—Tac—Toe etc can be readily used for Question and Answer time

Some pointers for overheads—

- (a) Portability may be an issue for you but generally portable projectors are more expensive
- (b) Before buying, check the price of replacement bulbs as some cost considerably more than others
- (c) Always have a spare bulb on hand, but remember that the expired bulbs are extremely hot
- (d) Mount the transparencies in cardboard frames—these are readily purchased. This makes the songs easier to store, handle and catalogue
- (e) Store transparencies upright in a box with a numbering system for easy retrieval. Use Dividers for each group of 10—15 or they will flop and curve in the center and will not stand evenly. This will also facilitate easy retrieval and replacement. Tabs or group numbers on the Dividers will help greatly. *Suggestion: give a reliable student the job of locating and placing the requested song from the box.*
- (f) Songs can be written by hand with permanent markers, but a good graphics program (such as Corel Draw), with Scanner and InkJet Printer can work wonders. At least you can print a trial copy and proof it first. *Might also be a good idea to have someone proof it who is a good speller—I've seen a lot of spelling errors in my travels.* The transparencies for InkJet printers are more expensive.
- (g) Overheads need to be cleaned of dust internally every 3-4 years if used only for Sunday School—more often if used more frequently.

In our assembly it has not negatively effected the principles we believe, the pattern of our meetings or our gospel outreach. Nor has any outrageous thing been introduced. The change was practical and likely cost no more than a new set of Children's Hymnbooks.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT....

Eye Witness from NYC. On a cold December day, a boy was standing before a shoe store window. He was barefoot, and shivering with cold. A lady approached and said, "Why are you looking so earnestly in that window?" "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boys reply. The lady took him by the hand and asked the clerk to get 6 pairs of socks for him. She then washed his little feet and dried them. She put his socks on and bought him shoes. She said, "No doubt you feel a little more comfortable now?" As she turned to go, the little fellow took her by the hand and with tears in his eyes looked into her face, and answered with these words, "Are you God's wife?"

