

THE ENCOURAGER

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

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If you have suggestions you'd like to share with other readers—please let us know

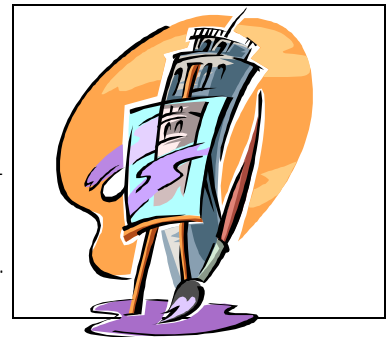


“They are precious in His sight!”



AN ANONYMOUS TIP

Recent email from a teacher suggested that the use of Flannelgraph ought to be encouraged. In their area, three mostly-spanish speaking folks have professed in the past year. 2 moms are presently attending SS each week who only speak a little English. [Many other SS's are experiencing similar things and have started ESL (English as a Second Language) classes in order to help a wide variety of nationalities understand as they seek to communicate the gospel.] The teacher writes that "I have a little class on Wednesday evenings with the Mexicans who professed and their children. I take my flannelgraph. One of the moms told me last week that she was trying to talk to a cousin about the Bible. When the cousin asked her some questions she would recall some of the pictures she had seen on the flannelgraph and that helped her to give answers. I found it interesting that even adults benefit. (This woman speaks English.) I use it in my SS Class also. I have a number of backgrounds and many flannelgraph packages to use with them."



“I take my flannelgraph”

The usefulness of flannelgraph is unquestioned. Flannelgraph has a decided advantage over pictures in that it displays action. The children actually see what is happening as the lesson progresses. The characters can be moved about as you will, yet put in place with a mere pat. You can even make your own simply by making or cutting out pictures of your own and gluing cloth on the back. Backgrounds also can be handmade if you or an assistant have some artistic skill.

I personally remember a time when I asked David Jones (missionary to Chile) to speak to the oldest SS class in Midland. There were about 20 in their late teens & early twenties from unbelieving homes. He used flannelgraph. My first reaction was surprize. Yet he used it in a masterful way and all sat there spellbound. That night a 21 year old who attended the class came along to the gospel meeting as well and was saved. It may be an age-old method of making the message real to the listeners but it still works.

Remember that all the senses contribute towards what we learn. Some of them affect us in a very minor way —like SMELLING 3% and TASTING 3% and TOUCHING 6%. HEARING is much better but still only about 13%. SEEING comes in as a clear winner as 75% of what we see impresses the learner.

IF YOU ARE READING THIS ...

and you could help a teacher who may find the cost of materials and backgrounds and a suitable board or easel too much—why don't you offer to help? Some younger believers have the energy and desire for SS work and they do not always have the resources. What an encouragement you could be to them! If not financially—perhaps you have the time to scout around and locate what they need. Or to draw and make the figures. Or even pray that the Lord will bless.