

# THE ENCOURAGER

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

The ENCOURAGER  
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## DOING IT WELL !!!

Someone once said that it is easy to write a book. You keep notes on a certain subject and fill up a shoebox with them. When the shoebox is full—then you have a book!

I'm not sure it is quite that easy, but it does get you thinking about it. After all, during years of speaking to kids and adults, I have accumulated not just one shoebox but drawers and file cabinets of message making materials. This would include

- ◇ Attention getting lead-ins
- ◇ Helpful tips
- ◇ Spellbinding anecdotes
- ◇ Ice-breakers
- ◇ Inspirational Thoughts
- ◇ Fascinating Statistics
- ◇ Illustrations—both pictorial and verbal

One of these or a combination of several could be the key to formulating a captivating lesson or message.

The basic element of a message is: "Tell them what you're going to say, say it, and tell them what you said". But there are supplementary elements that can be laid on that foundation to ensure your message will be both understood and even outstanding. The very best messages include strong examples to illustrate a theme, and to make the information and lesson stick in the mind of those who hear it.

This could be a BLUEPRINT for preparing any message!

### First — IDENTIFY YOUR GOALS AND TOPIC

In other words, ask yourself "WHAT IS MY MESSAGE ABOUT?" Then answer the question in ONE SENTENCE.

- I want them to KNOW .....
- I want them to GET INVOLVED in .....
- I want them to SEE.....
- I want them to UNDERSTAND .....

Try and make that sentence as short and concise as you can—it will help to keep both you and them focused.

Topics and goals should be quite specific. For instance....

**Poor:** The pupil will know about the Love of God

**Better:** The pupil will be able to describe the love of God by quoting John 3:16

**Poor:** The student will discuss the testing of Jesus

**Better:** The student will be able to list the three ways the Devil tested the Lord Jesus

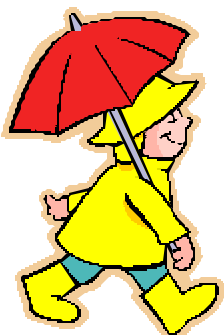
**Poor:** To help a child realize man's need and God's remedy from the story of Nicodemus

**Better:** The child will be able to quote a verse from the story of Nicodemus which will describe man's need and a verse describing God's remedy

In fact, after you have identified what you want—try and reduce the actual theme to a single word. You may not be able to do that, but it is a good exercise to think through. Don't bother trying to prepare your message unless you are clear about the topic and purpose! We need to remember what we are trying to accomplish?

This could be a BLUEPRINT For Preparing Any Message!

Watch for 'DOING IT BETTER' In The ENCOURAGER next month!



## I've Got My Reasons

A teacher was helping his group put their stuff away in the classroom. He was surprised to see that one of them had an umbrella. The teacher asked, "Why did you bring an umbrella today?"

The kid answered, "Did you ever have a mother?"