

# Children's Church: Building Believers by Teaching in Series

## WHAT TO FORMAT AND TEACH

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**INTRODUCTION:** *"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* **Matt. 5:14 – 16**

Most Children's Church teachers do not use any form of curriculum. Almost all church's follow some sort of Sunday School lesson plan. But the Junior Church, Children's Church or Super Church teacher or director are stranded to teach whatever they want or what is convenient. Because of this fact most teachers bounce from topic to topic, week after week. Systematic maturity through Holy Spirit led teaching should produce young believers that shine into the darkness of this world and produce good works into adulthood. There is no greater light in the world



than Jesus himself. **"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."** **John 8:12** Our example of light is the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

Jesus is light and we reflect His light that the young believers and the lost will desire not only the light but to be a light to others.

Children's Church is a biblical-based venue to reach young lives with the person of Christ and equip them with the tools to be Christlike. A balanced curriculum that instructs and directs the student with conviction and passion better prepares and builds the young believer. This class covers the teaching formula for Children's Church, the different subjects that produce a balanced young Christian and the length of each series and why. The distance our light shines is a direct result of the Holy Spirit filling, the knowledge of the Scriptures we possess and the application we can make to our lives and the lives of others we encounter.

The \_\_\_\_\_ - Giving an age-appropriate message to a varied age group is very difficult. Adherence to the following formula will help you accomplish this. However, no formula can substitute for Holy Spirit filling. A good formula is the following.

**The Truth**

+ \_\_\_\_\_ given

+ \_\_\_\_\_ delivered

+ Stimulating the senses with a \_\_\_\_\_

+ \_\_\_\_\_ applied

= True Worship and Life Change

**Teacher Expectations & Goals** – A good teacher will expect his/her young believers to become a mature believer through his/her teaching. This is only accomplished through goals. The basic general goal is that every young person be saved. Most children's church teachers are satisfied with just this. But after salvation what are the goals? They should be threefold.

- \_\_\_\_\_ – The new birth is the beginning. Growth must take place or else they will stagnate, wither and die. Can a teacher grow a student? Growth comes from God, but the teacher can build or prepare the student. The teacher can prepare the soil or build the structure for growth to take place. When a student begins to truly grow then they begin to:
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Know what? What do they know? What they believe. Doctrine and why they believe it. When they begin to grow by what they know it will always:
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Show is the proof or fruit of growth and knowledge that has taken root in the young believers' life.

However, on average this is not seen in those that graduate into the teen department. If we all know that the general goal is the new birth and growth after that then how come most children's churches do not know what they believe or how to worship properly? ANSWER: Children's church teachers do not teach in series.

**So Why Teach in Series** – Teaching any lesson consist of the who, what, when and where of the story or circumstance being taught or to simplify, the \_\_\_\_\_ you give. These facts become the foundation of the lesson or message. Then we observe and apply the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ as found in 2Timothy 3:16 *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* From the lives of people, and God's dealings with them, we learn about God's character, about our nature and about our relationship with God. These spiritual truths lead to the abundant life and godliness. These truths are the structure you built on your foundation of facts. Your roof then becomes \_\_\_\_\_. The roof makes the house practical by completing the purpose for which it was built. The purpose of the FACTS and spiritual TRUTHS are found in the APPLICATION made when the young person goes from hearing a lesson from the written Word to a life change through the living Word in their personal life.

Teaching in series \_\_\_\_\_ your foundation of **FACTS**, develops a \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual TRUTHS and then produces repetition and review that weaves APPLICATION of these **TRUTHS** through daily living. **APPLICATION** then produces true learning. True learning builds a young believer which produces growth, knowledge and a true picture of a Christ like believer. Remember you can only teach in series or hop from topic to topic. Once you have concluded that teaching in series is essential, what topics need to be taught? What are the essential themes/topics that must be covered to produce the scriptural growth necessary as seen in Matthew chapter five.

*Caution*, a good teacher will teach in series, one must be careful that the series is not too long. If the series in question builds upon itself. For instance, a series on the Miracles of Jesus does not require a lot of review from week to week, whereas Baptist distinctives has much more review. Therefore, the last lesson in the series would be ninety percent review.

**Series that should be Taught** – Most of what we teach is in series. However, some Sundays will be mini-series or single Sundays because of holiday emphasis, special church events, etc. This allows you to highlight why we celebrate holidays which are normally Christian or morally based. This also adds some variety to your teaching. Although you teach in series, salvation must be offered every Sunday. Edification can always include evangelization.

- Steps after Salvation (Four Weeks) (GROW class – Children's new converts discipleship classes)

- Holiday Mini-Series (Eight Weeks)

  - The Incarnation (birth) of Jesus Christ

  - Jesus, the obedient Son and His journey to become flesh

  - Jesus and the story of His birth

  - The obedient Son – His separation and sacrifice

  - The story of the cross – He came to die

  - The empty tomb – He defeated death

- Doctrines – (Eight Weeks)

  - The doctrine of Salvation

  - The doctrine of the Church

  - The doctrine of the Bible

  - The doctrine of Man

  - The doctrine of Angels

  - The doctrine of Sin

  - The doctrine of the Second Coming

  - The doctrine of God – Trinity

- Missions Series (Two Weeks)

- The Whole Armor of God (Six Weeks)

- Why we are Baptist (Baptist Distinctives) (Eight Weeks)

  - Biblical authority

  - Autonomy of the local church

  - Priesthood of believers.

  - Two offices within the church.

  - Individual soul liberty

  - Separation of church and state

  - Two ordinances

  - Separation

- Children's heroes of the faith (Eight Weeks)

  - Joseph

  - Daniel (The three Hebrew Children)

  - Samuel

  - David

  - Josiah

  - Naaman's maid

  - Timothy

  - Jesus

- Fruits of the Spirit (Five Weeks)

- Special Emphasis Sundays (Two Weeks)

This list of series can be modified but gives you a years' worth of material that is generally balanced to help build your young believers.

**Other series that could be taught -**

Tabernacle Types (Eight Weeks)  
The Law – Ten Commandments (Eight Weeks)  
Christian Attributes (Eight Weeks)  
Christian Growth (Six Weeks)  
Bible Hero Series (12 Weeks)  
Miracles of Jesus (8 Weeks)

**CONCLUSION:** The next generation will only shine as bright as reflect the Christ that lives in them. This is determined by applied and tested spiritual truths in their own lives. Teaching in series affords them the tools and knowledge to be Christlike and rewards them an abundant life and the ability to fulfill the great commission.