

## Sunday School Teachers' Training August 2017

As the number of children attending the Sunday school classes and VBS has increased over the past few years, the number of teachers has sadly not increased at the same rate. As the SS Coordinator, I have invited members to join in this work with little success with many giving excuses of their inadequacy to teach children. The Teachers' Training was therefore an opportunity to not only encourage and dispel the fears of those who have cold feet, but it would also serve to further equip our serving teachers. To aid in this endeavour, I prepared a *Training Guide* which would help in equipping interested persons. The Guide examines five key areas that are important for teachers to be equipped in, i.e. *Our purpose, Teachers qualification, Teachers challenge, Our materials and Evaluation of our work.*

The Training began at round 10:15a.m. with singing of hymns and prayer. I then welcomed the attendees and proceeded to issue each of them with a copy of the Training Guide. We began by looking at Our purpose where we looked at the need to bring the gospel to the Children. The discussion was lively as we discussed how children are often ignored in our fulfilling of the great commission. We also looked at how important it is to reach out to children since it builds a foundation for future gospel work. Many of those present fondly recalled how they came to know themes and big chunks of the Bible from their Sunday School teachers. After going through *Matthew 19:4* and *28:19-20* we concluded that children are lost and they need the gospel just as the older people.



We took a break after the first session and after that looked at the two areas of Teachers qualification and Challenge. In this session, we took time to discuss the need for godly teachers, teachers who know and practice the Word of God. We saw that godliness must be formed by a deep love and knowledge of God. We saw from men like Ezra and Paul that teachers of God's word ought to be impacted by it such that it is noticeable in their desires and actions.

Some questions were asked as to how this can be practically achieved looking at how time for thorough study of scripture is '*not available*'. Another question was asked of how a teacher can grow in assurance of their own faith so that they can communicate the truths of the Bible with conviction. There was good interaction on this area, and we concluded that it is only by personal determination to create time for study, as well as a rich prayer life, that will help in achieving both. From the conversation it would appear that personal devotion is a struggle for many young people.

On the area of Challenges, we saw that children do have a cognitive and attention challenge which makes the task of presenting Bible truths and principles hard. The participants admitted to this being the main reason why they shy away from children's ministry. We went through some practical means of overcoming these challenges by focusing one major teachings of a passage, repetition of biblical truths, reading slowly and encouraging student

participation among others. This session was of much interest to the participants such that we could not proceed to the other lessons due to time constraints. It was agreed that we meet in October to conclude on the two remaining areas, and after that invite the willing participants to join the teaching staff.

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