

## Why am I in Children's Ministry?

By: *Marsha Tilton*

Have you ever asked yourself this question? I began working with Children when I was a teenager by teaching a Kindergarten class for Vacation Bible School. As I grew older, I also spent a great deal of time teaching Sunday School, Junior Church, and Vacation Bible School. Truthfully, I never asked myself the question, "Why do I teach Children?" I just did it because God told me to and never questioned why. When someone would ask me this question in the past, I jokingly answered "because mentally I am in the same age range." After a while, I decided I needed a better answer. So, I took a break from teaching Children for a couple of years to see if there was anything else God wanted me to do. He did stretch my wings a bit by giving me a wonderful group of ladies to lead in Bible study for a time, but my heart would always yearn for Children. Yes, God drew me back into Children's ministry.

I read an article where teachers and volunteers gave all kinds of answers to the question above from, they still like to play with Lego's and Play Dough to "It's the only ministry where you can sing silly songs at the top of your lungs." Maybe you are in Children's ministry because there is snack time, that it keeps you young, or because you will know more people when you get to heaven. Yes, people have given these as reasons for volunteering their time in Children's ministry; but there are more "spiritual" comments such as, "It is the only thing that uses all my Spiritual Gifts at one time. (Teaching, Patience, Grace, Mercy, Encouragement, Discernment, and Love.)" Wow, I do not want to stand before God with these reasons. Do you?

Have you asked God and yourself, "Why am I in Children's Ministry?" Have you searched the scripture and spent time on bended knee in prayer to find the reason you are in Children's Ministry? Is your heart and mind in the place where God wants you to be? Today's Children are the future Church, are precious in God's sight, and are a major responsibility for parents and teachers to prepare them for the task of leading others to Christ and to live a Godly life. Are we giving Children the tools needed or are we just playing Lego's and giving them a snack?

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# Tips for the Classroom

## WEEKLY LESSON CHAINS

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At the end of each lesson, hand students a strip of construction paper.

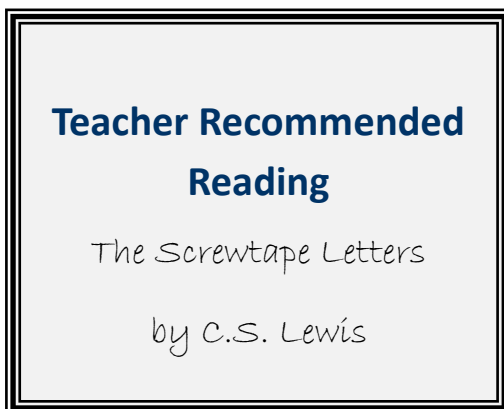
Have them write the lesson of the day, such as "God can help us make good decisions" on one side of the paper and fold it into a ring, with the words on the outside.



Each week, they tape or staple the ring to the previous one, making a chain with each week's topic prominently displayed.

The student with the longest chain at the end of all the sessions receives a prize, because that is the student with the best attendance.

Also, students take the chain home at the end of the sessions and can tell their parents what they have done as well as jog their memory about the point of each lesson.



*"Few of us are called to vocational missionary service in the usual sense of the term, but, the word missionary simply means someone charged with the mission of Christ--and that's all of us who know Him. In His great Commission, Jesus was appointing each of us to bear His name and advance His cause. We're all on the missionary path, and we need to press on without stalling or stumbling"*

-Dr. David Jeremiah

## A Bit of Humor...

### *Jesus' Grandma*

Jeremy's mom picked him up from his first day of Sunday school.

"Who's your teacher?" she asked him.

"I don't know her name, but she's Jesus' grandma," Jeremy replied.

"Why would you think that?" his mom asked.

"She never stops talking about Jesus," Jeremy replied.