

CHILDREN FELLOWSHIPING IN THE HOME

Parents are the best equipped individuals when it comes to training their children because God has given them the responsibility to train their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Proverbs 22:6; 1 Timothy 3:4 and 5.)

Training involves instruction in righteousness which includes teaching children the doctrine and then consistently reproving and correcting. We are responsible to see that our children learn to obey their parents. God teaches parents about the rod of correction.

Proverbs 22:15
Proverbs 23:13 and 14
Proverbs 19:18

Psalm 127
Proverbs 29:15 and 17
Psalms 78:1-8

Training our children also involves teaching our children how they can walk with God throughout every day. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9.) Here are five steps involved in walking with God on a daily basis:

1. Fellowshipping

Children should be a part of:

- a. Family fellowship (before school, during or after a meal, or before bedtime).
- b. Twig fellowships.
- c. Children's Fellowship.

2. Studying

- a. Children who are old enough to read can study with their parents on a daily basis to help build a habit pattern.
- b. Children who are not old enough to read can have quiet time with their parents while listening to a tape. They can learn the books of the Bible and scripture retemories.

3. Witnessing

- a. Go witnessing with your children, either as a family or Twig--let them see your example.
- b. Encourage them to talk to friends and teachers about the power of God and invite them to Twig.
- c. Teach them that being a good student, friend and citizen is a good witness.

4. Abundantly Sharing

- a. Teach children about giving and receiving in all areas of life.
- b. Parents may want to pay children for certain jobs so that they can abundantly share.
- c. Children can give in other ways to bless the Body.
 1. Make a picture of gift for the Twig.
 2. Help set up for fellowship.
 3. Prepare refreshments with their parents for Twig.

5. Speaking in Tongues

- a. Expose your children to the worship manifestations in the Twig fellowship.
- b. Lead your children into speaking in tongues whenever they express the desire to do so and can be properly instructed. (Many times this is somewhere between the ages of 5 and 7. However, age is not the issue.) Then continue to make it available but don't push them, humiliate or embarass them into doing it.
- c. Have practice sessions with your children.

Whatever you do, walk with God so it is an exciting adventure for your children. Make a schedule and incorporate these five keys so your children can be partakers also.

CHILDREN IN THE TWIG

The following is a portion of a letter written by Dr. Wierwille to the Children's Fellowship teachers:

No work of the ministry is of greater importance than building the Word accurately in the hearts and lives of our children. In The Way, the children of today will be the adolescents of tomorrow, the youth of the following day and then the adults who will carry God's Word until the return.

Every Twig, Branch and Limb should give a great deal of thought in planning and executing those plans to the finest degree for taking care of our boy and girl lambs.

Twig coordinators are responsible for everyone in their fellowships--adults, young people and children. The Twig coordinator makes sure that parents are taught the accuracy of God's Word concerning their responsibility toward God and their families.

Children should attend Twig fellowship at least once a week and Children's Fellowship once a week. Children need to learn to sit through adult meetings without creating a disturbance. A Twig coordinator should not allow a child to be a distraction when the Word is taught. But he should handle the situation tactfully. A Twig is a family and should work together lovingly when situations need to be handled. Parents in the Word should be training their children at home so that the child is learning to sit quietly in one place during a meeting. At least once parent should sit with the child near the door so that he or she could easily leave the room, deal with a situation and return. Eventually the child will learn to respect the teaching of God's Word and will sit still throughout the fellowship.

On Twig nights, when children do not attend fellowship, parents could:

1. Start their own Twig and put the children to bed at home.
2. Bring their children and put them to bed.
3. Hire a babysitter.
4. Take turns staying home with children.
5. Have the children sit in on the songs, prayers and manifestations, then have them do their homework or go to bed. (But the parent is still responsible for them.)

CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP

Children's Fellowship is a function of a Twig. It is not a babysitting service. The goal of Children's Fellowship is to teach the children the accuracy of God's Word on their level. It is to allow them to fellowship with peers and learn to feel like they are a part of the outreach of God's Word.

When should Children's Fellowship meet? The following are some possibilities:

1. Meet together at the same time as the adult Twig.
2. Meet with adults for the first part of the adult Twig (for songs, prayers and manifestations), then excuse the children and go to a separate room.
3. Meet at a completely different time.
 - a. After school.
 - b. On a Saturday or Sunday morning.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the parent to be involved some of the time. They should be encouraged to take a period of time for teaching the children. They should be blessed to take turns making refreshments, presenting a flannelgraph record, performing for them or inviting them all for some special activity occasionally.

Children's Fellowship has been and will continue to be a wonderful time of teaching God's Word to His young "boy and girl lambs."

"How to Conduct Children's Fellowship
on the Field"

(An outline of the video presentation of the same title--by Nancy Burton)

I. Goal: The Church in the Home

A. Importance of Children's Work--Next Generation

1. Psalm 127
2. God needs to be at center
3. Father and mother together training
4. Our goal is church in the home with every family fellowshipping. That's God's intention.
5. We are selfish not to get involved in children's work. We need to see ministry beyond our generation.

B. Children Fellowshipping in the Home (within that setting it is available for children to participate in:)

1. Family fellowship
2. Study (retemories)
3. Witness
4. Abundantly share
5. Learn about manifestations

C. Children in the Twig--Purpose: (not to teach adults or be center of attention)

1. Attend adult fellowship
2. Learn to respect the Word and the teachers
3. Hear announcements and manifestations
4. Learn to sit quietly
5. Allow parents and Twig coordinators to work together lovingly

D. Children's Fellowship--Service Rendered to Body of Christ

1. It is a function of a Twig
2. It is to teach children the Word on their level
3. It is to allow them to fellowship with peers
4. It is to help them see their part in Word Over the World

II. What is Available

A. Children's Fellowship Lesson Binder with Manual and Sections on:

1. PFAL
2. Life of Jesus Christ
3. The Church
4. Old Testament

B. Instructional Tapes

Mrs. Owens, Ellie Wilson, Rev. Mal George, music (teaching tape) #4 music tape available in Bookstore

C. Songbooks

With words and motions, available in Bookstore

D. Children's Magazines

Available for all ministry children and for witnessing

E. Quarterly Report Forms

One copy for Limb coordinator and one copy for International

F. Word in Family Seminar Tapes

Available from The Way International Bookstore

1. Rev. Bob Moynihan
2. Dottie Moynihan
3. Greg Bernardini
4. Ellie Wilson
5. Cindy Bernardini
6. Nancy Burton
7. Dennis McGee

III. Program Planning and Conducting

- A. Facility and physical setup decent and in order
- B. Plan ahead--keep it simple with purpose (one week ahead)
- C. Be flexible and imaginative, believably walk by spirit
- D. Be ready and sensitive to children's reactions, lead child into S.I.T.

E. Sample Program

- Song
- Prayer
- Singing
- Abundant Sharing
- Scripture Retemory
- Quiet Song
- Prayer and Manifestations
- Song
- Special Interest Time (media, puppet shows, games)
- Lesson
- Craft (equipment donations by Twig members)
- Closing

- F. International sets the example
Spiritual insight and tremendous believing and dressed properly

G. Discipline

Provides order and possible receptivity of the Word

- 1. Be pleasant but firm
- 2. Instruct, then expect obedience
- 3. Reprove and correct the first time; take care of small problems
- 4. Have teachers properly placed; avoid problems
- 5. Do not react negatively; stay in control; love, love, love

IV. Preschoolers

- A. Meet physical needs and loving needs
- B. Be perceptive of attention span
- C. Instruct, follow through, instruct again
- D. Be skillful in timing and spacing activities
 - 1. Receive - teaching activity
 - 2. Retain - learning activity
 - 3. Release - expression activity
- E. Love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation never fails

V. People Involved

- A. Limb coordinator
 - 1. Stay informed and promote Children's Fellowship
- B. Twig coordinator
 - 1. Teach parents
 - 2. Consider children's needs
 - 3. Plan family activities
 - 4. Participate in Children's Fellowship
- C. State Children's Fellowship coordinator
 - 1. Communicate with and follow guidance from International
 - 2. Stay knowledgeable of International
 - 3. Keep Limb coordinator inspired and informed
 - 4. Conduct Children's Fellowship Teachers Conference

5. Inspire and oversee teachers
6. Plan large meetings
7. Bless the parents

D. Teacher

1. Communicate with and follow guidance from state coordinator
2. Stay knowledgeable of International Outreach
3. Diligently prepare weekly programs
4. Teach the children the Word with enthusiasm
5. Participate in large meetings

VI. New Publications

- A. We need accurate Bible records for children
- B. We need coloring books, poems and prayers

VII. Vision for the Future

- A. Our responsibility does not end until the children are mature Christian men and women
- B. Children and Grandchildren
I Timothy 1:5
- C. I Peter 5:2 and 3
We need to live it first and then put forth the believing and effort to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- D. I Peter 5:4
First century Church didn't do it. We need to. Knowledge is not enough. We must teach and follow through until they are prepared in every phase of life. Do not give up too soon. Do not compromise. Let's change our culture. Be the pacesetter. Our ministry will live on. Our children will carry it the next 40 years if we do our part now. God bless you and I love you.