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CD 551 Seminar: Children's Ministry Making the Bible Live for Children

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FINAL DRAFT

CD 551 Seminar: Children's Ministry
Making the Bible Live for Children
February 25-26, 2005
Seminar Leader: Dr. Scottie May
Faculty Contact: Dr. Cathy Stonehouse

Location

Times

Friday February 25

1. 1:00 – 3:50 PM
2. 6:00 – 8:50 PM

Saturday February 26

3. 9:00 – 11:50 AM
4. 1:00 – 3:50 PM

The above four segments will include among other things

1. The history of and rationale for making the Bible live for children.
2. Relevant learning theory for children.
3. Various approaches for making the Bible live for children.
4. Experience with creating sessions that make the Bible live.

Requirements

Attendance

Participate in all 12 hours of the seminar.

Time Investment

In addition to the 12 hours spent in the seminar sessions, students will invest another 30 hours in the following required and optional activities.

Keep a record of the time you invest in each activity and submit a reporting of your time when work is completed.

Reading (these materials will help you think through the pertinent issues)

Prior to the seminar everyone will read:

Children Matter, chapters 1, 2, 3, 11, and 15 (Posted in the CD551 icon, Course Center)

Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives, Research, and Applications ed. Donald Ratcliff, chapter 1 (Posted in the CD551 icon, Course Center)

Will Our Children Have Faith?, John Westerhoff

Disappearance of Childhood, Neil Postman

Resource reading (these will guide you to create engaging biblical learning experiences)

Offering the Gospel to Children by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard

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7 Ways of Teaching the Bible to Children Barbara Bruce

Young Children and Worship by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman

Celebrate the Feasts by Martha Zimmerman

Create an Experiential Bible Series

In groups of 3-5 people, outline a 4-part Bible series based on the principles from course readings and classroom discussions and examples. Each group will hand in one series.

Conversations with Children

Talk with 2 children using the Children's Conversation Guide included with this syllabus. After the conversation make notes on the guide sheet and submit those with course work. Make copies of the Children's Conversation Guide for each child you will talk with.

Conversations with Parents

Have 2 conversations with parents using the Parent Conversation Guide included with this syllabus.

Make notes on the guide sheet and submit those with course work.

Make copies of the Parent's Conversation Guide for each parent or set of parents with whom you will talk.

Five Page Paper

Write a 5 page paper which answers the following questions **and** integrates your learning from the seminar, readings, and conversations with children and parents.

Why does the Bible not become an exciting book for many children?

How will you help teachers and parents in the churches you serve make the Bible come alive for children?

How will you make the Bible come alive for your own children or those close to you?

Optional Activities

Choose from the following options to complete the 30 hours, beyond attending the seminar, required for the course.

Cooperative Learning Group

With 2 – 4 other students, spend time discussing ideas from the seminar and course work and how you might use those ideas in ministry with children.

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Prepare and Use Ideas

Select ideas from the seminar and use them in teaching children, at church, or in the home. On the “record of time invested” indicate what ideas you implemented and the response of the children.

Additional Reading

Invest additional time reading from the following books.

Children in the Worshiping Community by David Ng and Virginia Thomas

The Family Friendly Church by Ben Freudenburg and Rick Lawrence

It Takes a Church in a Village by H. B. London and Neil B. Wiseman

View Videos

Watch 2 or 3 videos designed to introduce children to bible stories.

Additional Conversations

You may invest time interviewing additional children and or parents.

Due Dates

February 25 – Reading report indicating you have read the required readings.

March 14—submit the 4-session outline.

March 28 – Five page paper

Record of additional reading completed

Children’s Conversation Guides, at least 2 and pictures drawn by children

Parent’s Conversation Guides, at least 2

Record of how you invested the **30 hours of work required beyond seminar attendance**

Submit all work and reports to

Cathy Stonehouse

SPO 799

Submit materials in an envelope for return

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Children's Conversation Guide

Interviewer's Name _____

Date _____

Child's Name _____

Make arrangements with the parent to talk with their child. Find a place that is comfortable for the child and take a few minutes to get acquainted. Take paper and markers for the child to use in drawing. Listen to the child's response to the questions and make notes immediately after the conversation.

1. What are some of the fun things you like to do?

2. What are some of your favorite videos and TV shows?

3. Have the child draw a picture of one of his or her favorite Bible stories. Then ask the child to tell you about the picture.

4. What are some of the things you like about:
 - Sunday school?

 - Being in church with the grown ups?

 - Children's worship?

 - VBS, midweek club or other programs?

5. Is there a time and a place where you sometimes think about God?

6. What is God like?

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Parent's Conversation Guide

Interviewer's Name _____

Date _____

Parent's Name _____

Arrange a time to talk with parents about their children and the Bible.

You may talk with both parents together.

Make notes as the parents talk with you.

1. What forms do you use for introducing your children to Bible stories in the home?

2. How do your children respond to the following:

Being read to from a bible story book?

Being read to directly from the Bible?

Bible stories on video?

3. What have you found that works well for devotional times with your children?

4. What have you found frustrating about trying to have devotional times with your children?

5. Can you think of a time when your child surprised you with a question about a Bible story or an insight from reflecting on a Bible story? Can you tell me about that?