



Equipping Literacy Assistants

The value of a child

All children belong to God

- As CREATOR, they are extremely precious to Him.

“You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother's womb.” Psalm 139:13

- As REDEEMER, God wants children to hear the Truth so they will not depart from Him.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is older he will not depart from it.

- As PROTECTOR, God requires spiritual protection of children.

Mark 10:13 – 15

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this, he felt sad. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Children are a gift from God

- Ps 127: 3 Children are a heritage from the Lord, a reward from Him.
- Children are “on loan” from God for the first 18 years or so of their life.
- Parents have been given the task of raising their children in the ways of God.
- Christian parents and teachers are partners in a child’s education.



Matthew 18: 2-6 Jesus called a child, made him stand in front of them, and said, “I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. The greatest in the kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like a child. And whoever welcomes in my name one such child, welcomes me. But if anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be drowned in the deep sea.

If we accept that the child truly belongs to God, we must also accept that God alone has the authority to determine the nature of the child's education.



What makes a child valuable?

- Every child matters to Jesus
- Children are the leaders of tomorrow.
- Children are the salt and light for tomorrow's world.
- All children belong to God.

Discuss

- How does God want children to be treated?
- How does God want children to feel about themselves?
- What kind of negative experiences at school can damage a child's feeling?



How to honour children

- Show that you're interested in them. Ask them about their hobbies, interests, family, pets
- Value what they have to say.
- Don't say, "WRONG ANSWER", but instead you could say, "Good try, but there's another answer I am thinking of."
- Praise children, especially when a child does not usually excel, e.g. "Good job", "I liked the way you worked hard today."

Children need love, acceptance and support

- Children are sensitive and will recognize the love of God flowing through you to them.



Ways to show affection

- School staff should show affection through encouraging words, a happy manner and a smile.
- Another suitable way of showing affection would be a “high-5”.



Showing care in the way we speak

Children are valuable, so they should be spoken to with respect.

Jesus rebuked the disciples for pushing the children away.



Speaking with respect

- Don't shout at them!
- Ask them to do things in a respectful way

Examples:

“I would really like you to”

“ Let's say that again.”

Not “Do this!” ...”Say that again!”

Use please, thank you and a smile.

Positive words

- *Prov 16: 24*

Gracious words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

- *Prov 15: 4*

The soothing tongue is a tree of life,
but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

Negative words

Proverbs 12:18

Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal.

Love and kindness are the ingredients for growth

- Every person has precious gifts inside them that others may not be able to see right away.
- If a child is treated with care, these special gifts will grow, develop and shine for others to see.
- People also have places inside that can easily be hurt or broken.
- When we are hurt, our special gifts may become locked and hidden inside us, and no one will see them.

Valuable things can break



Damaging words and experiences can keep God-given gifts locked away inside a person, like a box with a lid that cannot be opened.



Precious gifts

Are locked away

So no one can see them.



What are some of these precious gifts?

If you owned a car, how would you look after it?

- Provide the things it needs to run well.
- Be attentive to its needs.
- Treat it with care.



Discussion:

How could these points apply to the bringing up of children?

Our students are valuable

- God values them greatly.
- Sometimes adults don't see them as beautiful and valuable because they do not measure up to how we think they should be.
- We need to show students the value they have to God, and to treat them with care.
- How can we do this?

Showing care by looking out for emotional needs

Students are valuable so those who care for them should try to be aware of social and emotional needs.

- Look out for children who are 'left out' in the playground and help them join in with others.
- Look out for children who seem distressed or sad and chat with them to find out what's bothering them.
- Watch for children who might be bullied or made fun of.
- Be a friend to those who might feel a 'failure'.



Caring for health and hygiene

Students are valuable, so we should make sure that they take care of their health and appearance.

- Plenty of nutritious food
- Hand washing
- Hair clean and tidy
- Check for head lice
- Clean face and body
- Clothes neat and clean
- Nails clean and trimmed
- Dental care



Creating a clean and attractive physical environment

Students are valuable so their physical environment should reflect care.

- NO to trash around school
- Clean up and beautify the school and classroom
- Plants and flowers
- Fix things



Discussion

What would you do if you found that a child in your care showed signs of poor care, including cleanliness and nutrition?