

SHEPHERDING PLACER BAPTIST CHURCH'S PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN

by

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A Capstone Project Presented to the Faculty of the
CEBU GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Religious Education

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Capstone Proposal¹

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Working Title of Project: Shepherding Placer Baptist Church's private and public school teachers to be involved in the Christian Education ministry for children.

Faculty you have consulted for this project: Doc. Ricky Recodo, Doc. Susan Cuambot, & Doc. Lowell M. Tallo

List the courses you've taken at CGST that you will be integrating into this capstone project: Teaching Strategies, Foundations of Education, Principles of Leadership, Theology of Christian Education, Philosophy of Education, and Christ and Salvation.

Capstone Description:

Majority of our church members are teachers. Some of its reasons is that it is common, available, and not expensive course that is offered here in our place. We have educators who are actively teaching in both public and private institutions. I find this data in our church an advantage and no wonder we have a lot of children in our care. But here is the problem that is commonly present in most of the local churches today including ours; the ministry of Christian education is left to the young people who are still aspiring to be teachers than to those who are already practitioners in the teaching profession. A survey of the reasons behind this situation will be conducted within our church and solutions will be given as well.

For clarity, we are not discrediting the work of the aspirants in the field of Christian education work but the point that I am proposing here is this, all practicing educators of our church in both public and private area are assets in the CE² ministry due to the advantages that they already possess and this will also be discussed in this capstone project.

The aim of this capstone is to transform minds that Christian Education ministry among our children in our local church is not just during Sunday but this could be done any day. Providing avenues for these teachers where they could be involved in CE work will be the indicators of this project for its assessment. I envision convictions later that these practicing educators will be sent-out as tutors, Sunday school teachers, evangelists, depending on their desire that will be cultivated as this project progresses. These teachers will be challenged first and foremost, be interviewed, mentored, visited, equipped, tested, and guided for the work of their choice in the field of church's Christian education ministry. It is my conviction that God has given them this profession not just for their bread and butter but that their work is an instrument in leading the children to the eternal Bread of Life- the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ This format has been adapted from San Francisco State University's MA TESOL Capstone Proposal sample. https://english.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Capstone_Proposal-Sun.pdf (accessed 13 Aug. 2021).

² An acronym for *Christian Education* (CE)

Approach and/or Methods:

Shepherding demands varieties of approaches in the ministry and it will certainly happen on this project. The very first thing that I will do is prayer. I will pray together with my fellow pastor and leaders in our church so that they will also be informed about the aim of this project. I find this work not just an assignment to comply. That is why it is my desire that leaders would understand first so that it will properly flow to our fellows in the church.

Then while we are praying, visitation will be my next step. I will visit them as their pastor-teacher who has seen one of the problems in our CE ministry and I want them to carry this burden with me. While doing the visitation, interviews will happen. Questions like, what is the ministry of Christian education in the church all about? Why is this ministry important in relation to the mandate of the great commission? Personal questions like, do you want to be involved in the work? What are the possible reasons teachers are not involved in the Christian education ministry in a local church? Etc.

Then, writing a contextualized Biblical Foundation of Christian Education as series of lessons will be my next step. This writing will be the result of my visitation, interviews, and heart to heart talks with my prospects. After writing, I will give them copies of the things that I would write and then, I will be back to visitation again. After these things are clearly done, I will set up a time where all of my prospects will be grouped for prayer, fellowship, and more instructions.

After the mentioned things above, these are the last steps that I will do for the full implementation of the project; OBSERVATION stage, APPRENTICE stage, and SENT-OUT stage. Before going in to the first stage of observation, I have to really make it sure that the foundations and relationships with them and with me are clearly and biblically established.

Timeline:

Stage	Description	Timeline
Intercession stage	This is the time where our church leaders and even in our congregational prayer time in regards of the aim of involving and mobilizing our members who are teachers in the church will be prayed for.	1 Week
Visitation stage	This is the time where relationship first is fixed through praying for the persons who might be involved on this project. This is the time where as a pastor I would survey the individuals	2 weeks

	and see who will really be participating in our aim. This is just purely visitation and may God's wisdom will be in me as I open my mouth and talk to these teachers.	
Consultation stage	This is the time where I will be back to them through individual visitation again with the intention of interviewing them and asking them the questions that I crafted and of course, prayer after the interview will always be conducted.	2 weeks
Foundation stage	This is the time to write the result of my interviews and visitation. In this leg also, contextualized biblical lessons about Christian education will also be written and solutions on the problems on our CE church ministry will also be discussed.	1 month
Instruction stage	After I write the things that I needed to write, copies will be given to our members and then, one on one talk, group talks, visitation, and bible studies will be conducted. These are the steps that I will do on this leg to ensure instructions from the biblical foundations on the ministry of Christian Education.	1 month
Application stage	On this final lap of the project, we will already proceed to the practical side of the studies. We will do these steps; <i>Observation, Apprentice</i> , and then, <i>Send-off</i> .	2 months

	I will create avenues of Christian education works through also tapping those Christians educators within our fellowship who are already in the ministry. Prospects would decide and choose based on the crafted indicators and questions on the interview in what CE work will be their choice for the ministry and then, they would observe the things that are done. After observation, they will do the work while some of our leaders are assisting them. Then the final leg is that, the church will recognize them as ministers of a particular ministry in our local church.	
Evaluation stage	After the send-off, our church leaders will gather and evaluate the things to improve and the things to discard on the process. An evaluation form will be given later.	1 week
Presentation stage	The project will be presented explained, and defended to the panel where proper documentations are secured for the presentation.	1 week

Outline:

1. **Introduction-** this project is all about discipleship through Christian Education in our local church. This is to shepherd the Christian teachers in our fellowship to be involved in the Christian education works because they already have the advantages that they already possessed through their educational training during their studies and even in their past, present, and on-going experiences in the educational arena.

We will work on knowing what is our problem why we are not really educating our children in a constant, Christ-centered, bible-saturated, and passionate way. We will talk and discuss why Sunday is just the time where we are doing ministries for our children and we are going to discuss as well how to minister to our children in any day and not just Sunday.

This important matter and ministry should be talked inside the fellowship because children are part of the fellowship and they will be the ones who will take the lead later in the coming future in our local church. They have to be taught in the ways and words of Christ so that they will be able to pass on as well the very Gospel that Christ has entrusted in our care to the next generations of believers until His coming. Therefore, it is the intention of this project to shepherd faithful, loving, and passionate Christian educators in our fellowship that their lives would really become Christ's vessels wherein children in our care would really feel, see, and know that the Gospel is not a message to know but it is also a life that is seen and experienced by them through us by God's sustaining grace for Placer Baptist Church.

2. **Background-** this project is a fusion of academic and the practicality of lessons about Children's ministry and education but I would say that the dominant side of this project is actual works among my brethren because of the intention to "shepherd" Christian teachers in our fellowship. However, I would also say that in "shepherding" practicality is not just the concern but practicality is a by product of what would be my principles, foundation, and theology in this project. As a follower of Christ, we do not have any other weapon. Our only weapon and foundation in faith and even in our practices are all crafted and founded in the Scriptures alone. That is why all of the solutions, methodologies, and principles that will be touched and written in this plan are all taken from and mandated by the very Word of God-the bible.

On the other hand, speaking of motivating factor too, the thing that also gave me a push to take this concern is this, I grow up observing local churches and its Christian education endeavor even in our fellowship that the cycle just keeps on repeating that when aspiring teachers become really practicing teachers already, the works of Christian education are left to the young people who are still trying to be teachers through the Sunday school works in the church and I find it challenging because supposedly, since they are already teachers who have their licenses and degree, they should be the ones who are mentoring the aspirants and they should be the ones who should be in the front line of Christian education for our children. But the opposite just happens and seems that the cycle is just meant to happen again and again. Therefore, I decided to work on this project not to depreciate the value of works and contribution of the aspiring and sophomore teachers in our ministry but to augment, supplement, and help them become better teachers through the help of those who are already practicing teachers in our local church.

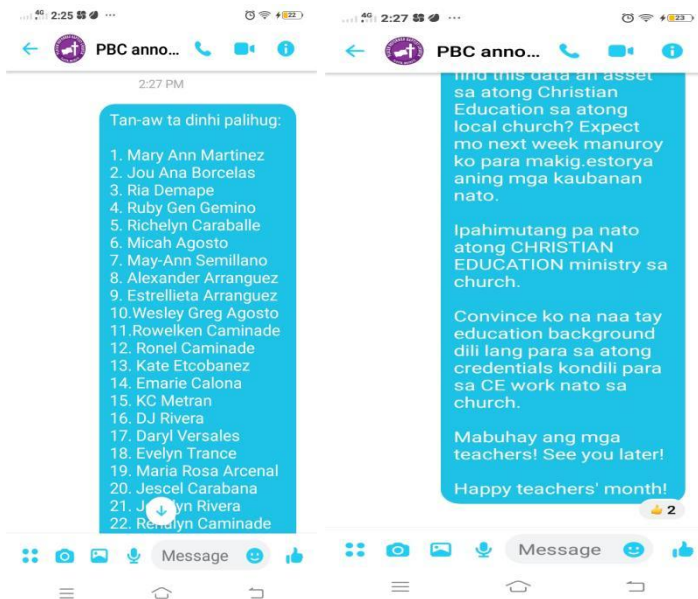
3. **Body-** On this portion of the capstone project, the details on what have been implemented and executed on the planned timeline will be discussed.

Intercession stage (1 week). This was the time where I as the promoter of this project as well as together with our church's leadership team have committed this work to the Good Shepherd knowing that to shepherd people is not an easy task.

This was also the moment that while we were praying and sharing these things to some of the people in the church, I was also planning already what to do in this project and I thank the Lord because I and together with some of my trusted co-laborers and friends in the church were able to start the things that are indicated in this capstone.

Visitation stage (2 weeks). I have immediately conducted and scheduled our visitation leg. I informed our 35 Christian teachers in our church through our Group Chat in Facebook Messenger that I would visit them. These people are mixed group. There are people in the church who are practicing public school teachers. There are also people who are still pursuing their educational degree and there are also people who are licensed teachers but they chose not to work in the public or private school and the number of education degree pursuers and holders is the majority of the population in our local church. Out of 57 members in our local church, 35 of us are in the field of educational career. However, though there are different kinds of group of teachers in our church, the goal is still the same and this is to shepherd these Christian educators to be involved in PBC's³ work among our children. Going back to the purpose of this visitation, the goal was just to inform and connect with our educators in the church and tell them about what is happening already in the ministry of our Christian education for our children. This leg as well was also like a scouting in my part because through this visitation, I was able to know who are already doing the ministry even prior to the emphasis of this project. Thus, visitation indeed really helped me in my further preparations for the remaining part of this capstone.

On this stage as well, I already had a sense who were interested in the work and who were really in need of shepherding so that they would be involved in teaching and making our children disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. After my pastoral visitation, I told them that I will be back. Here are some of the captured memories that have happened during these times.



³ Acronym for Placer Baptist Church (PBC)

Consultation stage (2 weeks). I have conducted visitation again with the intention to interview educators in our church so that further information and details about them and the things that I will be doing in shepherding will also be clear to me. As I talked to them, a set of simple questions were given to them to answer. These questions are to help me in equipping them and an aid on their part as well so that they will also be able to evaluate themselves where they are already at in their Christian walk of being involved in our ministry for our children in the local church.

The intention of this consultation was to know the different factors and problems among our Christian educators on why they are not so involved in terms of having this commitment in handling a service or any ministry for our children. Thus as I have known and heard the different factors and their reasons, all the more that I was taught by them to be patient and to have the heart of the Good Shepherd in me. However, I have also thought that we have to talk about these hindrances in our coming small groups so that solutions will be discussed and so that the attitude of helping one another will be practiced and so that our children will be taught about the ways of Christ.

Attached in this portion are some of the pictures during the consultation implementation and the interview paper that I have crafted. The things that we have discussed during these times have still helped me a lot in the next stage of this project- the *foundation stage*.

There were two (2) kinds of interview papers that I brought with me during this stage; the interview paper for the *involved* and *uninvolved*. Among the 35 educator members in our local church, some of them are involved to other ministry though they are not involved in any of the Christian education work in the church. However, since they have the training and ability already, it was my intention in shepherding to motivate them to use their prior equipping and ability for the edification of our children for the glory of God.

These are the interview papers for the *involved* and *uninvolved* in the children's work:

Capstone Project: *Consultation Stage*
Questions for Visitation

Date of Visitation: _____
Name of the teacher visited: _____

Note: These questionnaires are for those practicing teachers **who are not yet involved** in any of the CE works in our local church.

Start with prayer...

1. What is the reason why did you take up education degree? Why are you pursuing education (for present student only)?
2. How are you using your educational training for God's glory? Is there an avenue where you are using your educational background so that Christ's name will be exalted?
3. What is/are your strength/s as a teacher?
4. What is/are your weakness/weaknesses as a teacher?

5. Are you presently involved in any of the Christian education ministry in our local church? Yes or No? What is/are the reason/s?

6. What do you think why the ministry of Christian education is very important in a local church?

7. Do you want to be involved in any of these CE work in the church? Yes or No? What specifically?

Evangelizing street children Prayer meeting with children Visitation for the children
 Bible Study with children Tutor for literacy & Numeracy for children
 Sunday School Teacher Others What specifically? _____

8. What needs do you think that you still need as you plan to involve in the CE work in our local church? Why do you think you need it?

constant visitation for encouragement theological training a buddy in the work
 retreat/fellowship with co-laborers others What Specifically? _____

9. What challenges do you think that you will experience and encounter as you plan to involve in our CE ministry in our local church?

End with prayer...

Capstone Project: *Consultation Stage*

Date of Visitation: _____

Questions for Visitation

Name of the teacher visited: _____

Note: These questionnaires are for those practicing teachers **who are already involved** in the CE works in our local church.

Start with prayer...

1. What is the reason why did you take up education degree? Why are you pursuing education (for present student only)?

2. How are you using your educational training for God's glory? Is there an avenue where you are using your educational background so that Christ's name will be exalted?

3. What is/are your strength/s as a teacher?

4. What is/are your weakness/weaknesses as a teacher?

5. What do you think why the ministry of Christian education is very important in a local church?

6. Do you want to be involved in other areas besides your present involvement in the church? Yes or No? What specifically?

Evangelizing street children Prayer meeting with children Visitation for the children
 Bible Study with children Tutor for literacy & Numeracy for children
 Sunday School Teacher Others What specifically? _____

7. Are you willing to disciple and train someone who would also do your present involvement in our CE work in the church so that you will be duplicated?

8. What might be your need in doing the discipleship training?

___ constant visitation for encouragement ___ theological training ___ a buddy in the work
___ retreat/fellowship with co-laborers ___ others What Specifically? _____

9. What might be the possible challenges that we might encounter in doing number 7 & 8?

10. What might be the possible solutions that you think to the anticipated challenges of doing number 9?

Results of the interviews:

Prior to the consultation, there are already 20 members who have the educational training who are already involved in the children's work in the church. The most common involvement that they do is teaching in our Sunday school ministry and if ever there will be programs for our children in our church like Christmas party and Children's month, these are the people who will really be committed in handling these works.

After the interview, out of 35 members, only 30 of them had really committed to be involved for our children's work and there are 5 who were in doubt whether they will join or not because of the following reasons: On the top of this is their work loads and time of work, this hinders them to be involved. Some of the teachers do not have time already to attend equipping classes in the church because they would come home late at night due to the distance of their school and their house and also due to the over work loads for them. Then secondly, some family issues and conflict which result to discouragement to minister is also in the list. Thirdly, church issues like members' conflicts that are still fresh in their memories which technically lead to apathy in being not engaged in the work. However, I still said to these persons who have not promised to commit that they could still minister at their own pace though they will not be involved in this project in shepherding teachers for our children's work.

But for those who have shown interest in the work, three (3) have chosen the literacy work for our children because they are already doing this. Five (5) have committed to be involved in the curriculum planning and crafting for our Sunday school work. Five (5) have also committed to be in the visitation team for our children. Four (4) have committed in evangelizing street children. Three (3) have committed to lead the children in prayer meeting. Three (3) new bible teachers for our children were added in our Sunday school force and the remaining seven (7) members just committed to conduct regular family altar with their children.

Their needs so that they could continue:

One of the greatest needs that I was able to hear and know with my personal conversation with my fellow teachers is that though, they already have the training and experiences when it comes to children and classroom management but they were still not confident when it comes to what to say especially in using the Word of God. Majority of those 30 people who have committed in our children's work have chosen that they were really in need of theological training when it comes to handling the ministry among our children. Then secondly, a constant visitation and

encouragement for my fellow ministers are really necessary to do so that their involvement will at least be groomed and preserved for their perseverance as well.

Realizations after the consultation stage:

*I have to address the problems that we have discussed in this stage in the next journey of this project and give solutions for those challenges through the help of the Word of God.

*I have to use the approach of small groupings so that they will be able to share their burdens with one another and that relationship will be established as well. This approach is effective knowing that one also of the hindrances wherein people are not involved in the ministry is that, relationship are broken and no one is there to mend and give counsel. One of the ways in which small groups will be established is that, I will give discussion questions every after our session lesson and by this, they would practice discussing and sharing things within their group.

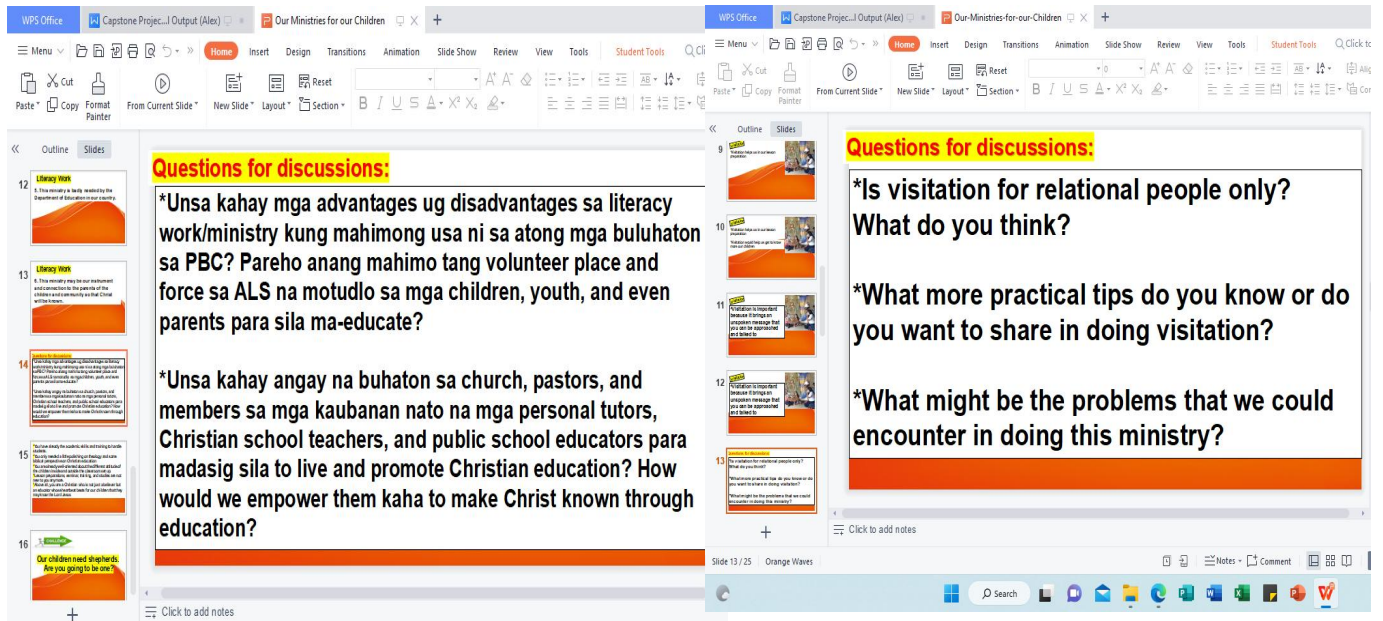
*I have to also teach the things that I will be writing for our contextualized lesson in the church. I realized that the church also need to hear this project and not just the teachers. Therefore, as Children’s month was also approaching during this time (November), I decided to also teach the whole church with all the lessons that I wrote in shepherding teachers so that every one will know the principles and the practices later. I incorporated the lessons in the foundation stage during our weekly Church General Bible Study every Saturday so that every one will be aware of what a biblical children’s ministry really is.

Here are some of the documents during the interview, General Bible Study in our church, small groupings, and our own class sessions with the Christian educators of Placer Baptist Church:



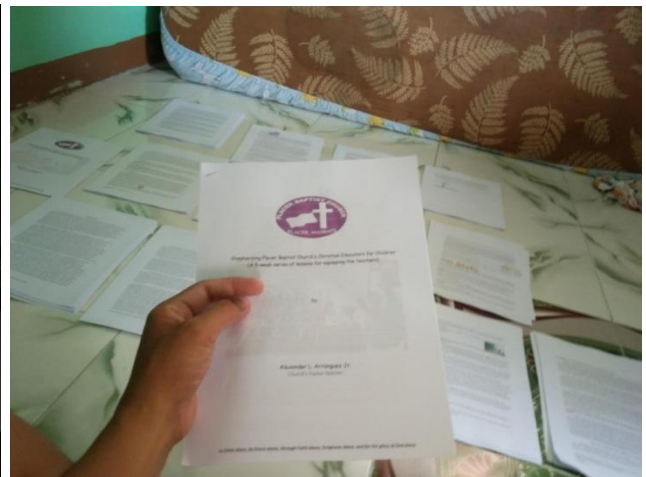
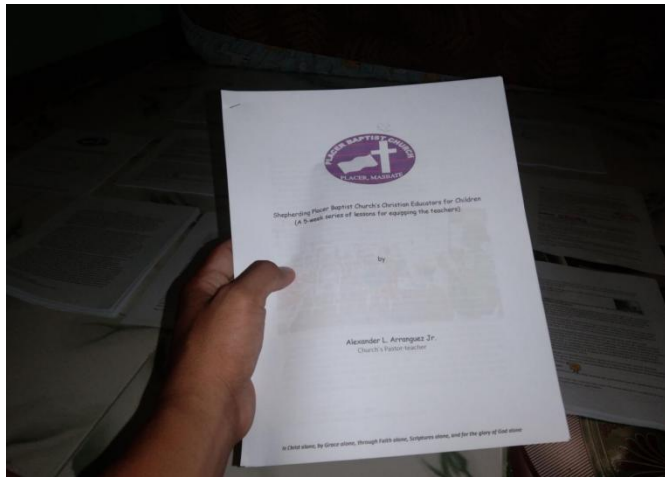


Foundation stage (1 month). I was able to write simple, contextualized, and bible-based lessons for our mini theological and practical series of lessons for our teachers in our church. The lessons are not deep theological treatises but not a shallow one as well. The lessons are designed to build small groups in our church for teachers and thankfully, the teachers are not just benefited from this subject but the whole church too. People are now used to have sharing and discussion during the lesson and even after our bible study. I would say that our kind of bible study in the church today is not the usual traditional type of bible study anymore and I am so thankful to the Lord for this progress in our Christian education. The written lessons is in the appendices portion of this paper.



These are one of the examples of the discussion questions that I have crafted and was able to give to the teachers so that in our session of studies, sharing and thinking will be more practiced.

Instruction stage (1 month). This was the time where the above pictures had happened. 30 teachers were able to attend the sessions about the foundations of this project and in fact the teachers were not just my audience when instructions were given but the whole church and even the non-members of our church were able to also listen to our contextualized lessons. The lessons were also taught in the church in relation to our children's month celebration. I have printed 30 hard copies of the lesson materials and gave those to our teachers and created power point presentations also for the whole church as well.



Application stage (2 months). As of this moment, we are already in this stage of the project. At the beginning of this capstone, the teachers have already decided as to what ministry of children's work they are going to be involved and commit. During the consultation stage, we have identified that there were three (3) who have chosen the literacy work for our children. Five (5) have committed to be involved in the curriculum planning and crafting for our Sunday school work. Five (5) have also committed to be in the visitation team for our children. Four (4) have committed in evangelizing street children. Three (3) have committed to lead the children in prayer meeting. Three (3) new bible teachers for our children were added in our Sunday school force and the remaining seven (7) members just committed to conduct regular family altar with their children.

It was stated in the timeline of this project that there will be three (3) steps to do in this final lap of the capstone. We will do the **Observation, Apprenticeship, and Send-off**. *Observation* is the process in which those who will be involved in the children's work will be taught the foundations in which we have already done and not only the foundations but also the practicality and the reality of what to be like in doing the practical side of the ministry. While they are doing the observation, someone will guide them like a buddy in the work and that is the second step of this stage- the *Apprenticeship* stage.

By the grace of God, prior to the emphasis of this capstone among our people, BTC⁴ graduates were already doing such and it was more intensified when children's ministry is motivated by the intention of this project. After the second step, the *Send-off* has proceeded. Last Saturday, the church has just prayed for our Christian Educators as a culmination and closing of this capstone

⁴ BTC stands for Baptist Theological College a seminary in which some of our teachers in our church have graduated.

and our children's month celebration. As I already stated above, we are still in this stage because we find this work an on-going work for shepherding is a continuous labor in a local church. However, in terms of the clarity of the success of this project, the indicators that our children's Christian education has progressed are stated below.

Evaluation stage (1 week). This portion is intended for our church leaders, myself, and the panel of Cebu Graduate School of Theology who would evaluate this capstone. I would say that though we are still in the work, this project is still successful by the grace of God for the enumerated reasons below.

Firstly, there are already clear schedules in our church in which the involved are already attending to be in the service of Christian education for our children. Tuesday night would be our evangelism night for those street children. Every 1st and last Wednesday of the month, parents are already bringing their children in our prayer meeting. Before, they would not bring their children because they find them as distractions in prayer but now, I could see changes from the people in the church. Curriculum planning team meets twice a week for their lesson preparations and equipping (Saturday and Sunday afternoon). Literacy workers such as DepEd public school teachers, private school teachers, and personal tutors are now convinced to integrate bible lessons and use the Scriptures in their teachings during their work from Monday through Friday. Fridays will be set aside for any visitation if there are children who are in need of this. Plus, some of the parents in the church are already taught to use the simple Question and Answer catechism for our children in the church for their family altar. This project has somehow motivated me and the church as well to go back in shepherding the people who would shepherd our children.

Secondly, the whole church including our Compassion workers and our leadership team are now convinced that we could still do children's ministry even if our partnership with Compassion Philippines⁵ will come into its termination. Ideas were opened up to them that our church could be partners with Alternative Learning System (ALS) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) if we desire to team up and connect to our community so that we could still promote Christian education.

Thirdly, I would say that this is one of the best contributions of this capstone in our local church. Therefore, this capstone is a success and it is the implanted conviction and realization in our hearts that Christian education must be led and spearheaded by the Christian educators in the church shepherded by the pastors. These are the reasons why I would say that though we are still doing this project and I am still leading this shepherding work, I could still utter a success and all of these are because of the grace of the only Great and Good Shepherd- the Lord Jesus Christ.

In addition, as for the formal evaluation also of this project, a church meeting has been done in our fellowship last Saturday (December 3rd). This concern was one of our agenda during the meeting and it was under "PBC's ministries" as one of the sub-agenda under that particular main concern. Members have affirmed their support and congratulations and they were able also to feel and witness the small changes in our children's work. This evaluation will still be brought to

⁵ Placer Baptist Church is in partnership with Compassion Pilipinas and this Compassion Pilipinas is under Compassion International.

the inner circle of the leadership team of the church so that they will be more specific in giving me the concerns that they wanted to express so that further improvement and continuation will still occur even if this capstone will already cease due to its schedule academically at CGST⁶. Forms and notes will certainly be present in the meeting later.



This is Bro. Alvin, a recent education graduate. I brought him to the Division Office of Masbate as part of the apprentice stage in this Capstone. It was a nice time of discipleship telling him things about being both a teacher and a pastor at the same time. Alvin and I are part of the evangelism team for street children.



These are the Gospel tracks that we usually use in evangelism because it is colored and at the same time children will also love to read this because it is a comics type of literature. The Gospel track is entitled "Maayo Ka ba Nga Tawo?". During the foundation stage of this capstone, we also talked about the other ways of telling the Gospel to the children..

Presentation stage (1 week). This will be the time where the panel of CGST in which I am enrolled for the degree of Christian education will check this capstone. The time frame that was put here is one week because this paper was still prepared and crafted. That was why there still a need for enough time to be ready for the presentation.

4. Conclusion and Final Reflections

There are principles that I have learned in this journey and I desire to express those as I end this capstone. Firstly, Shepherding is indeed a challenging and humbling work. It is challenging because you have to plan your schedule and adjust this when necessary so that you will be able to meet the people that you have to equip. The skills of flexibility, versatility and multi-tasking are the things that a shepherd must have so that he will be able to balance important things in his life. An imbalance life of a shepherd will result to either an unhealthy physical body, marital conflict, ministry downfall, and many other things that could be included on this negative lists. Shepherding also is humbling because the work will just bear fruit upon the blessing of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2: 4-5; 3:7). That is why no wonder Paul has illustrated in 2 Timothy⁷ that a

⁶ Acronym for Cebu Graduate School of Theology (CGST)

⁷ 2 Timothy 2: 1-7

shepherd is a farmer who must be very patient in planting and waiting for the harvest. A minister must also be a disciplined athlete who would persevere in his Christian walk and talk and at the same time a soldier who will fight the good fight of faith (2 Tim. 4:7). Paul has said, “... *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching*” (2 Tim. 4:2 ESV). Paul said the striking phrase “*complete patience.*” That is why it is humbling because the shepherd is not the cause and reason of any changes in the ministry but God Himself alone. Thus, we have to really wait for God’s intervention and His answers to our request in blessing the labors of our hands.

I have also realized that I have to be prayerful. God really desires His people to pray while in waiting upon Him. I realized that I really lack the discipline in prayer. I am like a machine which just keeps on going and going until its power would be empty already. That is why all the more that I appreciated the Sabbath day because this day is not just for physical rest but also in resting spiritually in having this confidence that God will do what He is going to do according to His good pleasure in our local church.

One of my reflections also is that not all the people that you are going to shepherd will respond positively to your concern. Sometimes instead of lifting you up because you have this concern for the church, side comments would unintentionally or intentionally be thrown at you that would hurt you. But regardless of these discouraging moments, a shepherd has to continue to be patient and loving because the Great and Good Shepherd Christ Jesus has demonstrated gracious things so that under shepherds like me would have Him as our model to follow.

I am really thankful because there are already growing Christian educators in our local church who are now involved in our Children’s work. I also learned that indeed all things work together for good because out of those 35 educators in our church, 33 of those just took up education because they do not have a choice anymore because of financial difficulty. But God is able to do the things that are beyond our comprehension. Now, those teachers were convinced that God has led them to education so that they will be part of the Christian education work specifically in equipping our children.

Now, my utmost concern and prayer is this, may we continue to persevere and grow in the things that God has started in and through us. Therefore, I am going to cling on this promise in the Word of God, “*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 1:6 ESV).

I would still expect discouragements in our children’s work in the future. There might be some who are so involved today who might not already commit tomorrow but on the other hand, there might be more people who will really be involved later but even then, I know that God will always finish what He has started in His people and I cling on to that!

5. References

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6. Appendices:

The Contextualized Lessons for our Christian Educators in our local church:

Introduction

The Lord Jesus Christ said before His victorious ascension⁸ “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age*” (Matt. 28: 19-20 ESV). Making disciples of the Lord Jesus is teaching the people about Him. Yes, there is preaching, evangelism, counseling, and sometimes rebuking but teaching is always part of those works wherein the Gospel is communicated to different kinds of people. By this, we could really see the crucial part of the teaching process in the Great Commission which Christ has mandated for all of His followers to do. Without the

⁸ Luke 24: 50-53; Acts 1: 9-11

teaching work in the church or without the ministry of Christian education, the Great Commission is not truly and faithfully obeyed.

Today, there are plenty of superficial so called “discipleship-process” within evangelical churches thinking that being a disciple of Christ is all about finishing a particular course of lessons and then people will just declare that the finisher is already a disciple of Jesus. They thought that being a Christian is different from being Christ’s disciple where in all reality, a believer is a Christian. A Christian is a disciple and a true disciple is a Christian (Acts 11:26; 14:21). This is the reason why all the more that a biblical, Christ-centered, God-glorifying, and Spirit-led Christian education must be really present in our churches due to the obvious deviation of the churches today from the Word of Christ especially in the Christian education work among our children. One of our resources is convinced that ministering to children must be our high priority (Fowler, 2012). Above all, God Himself desires that His Word will really be passed to the children (Deut. 6: 6-25; Eph. 6:4). This should be done so that the next generation of the believers will truly be anchored and founded in Christ but in order to do this, an equipped academically and theologically sound Christian educators must be raised up in our local churches.

While we acknowledge that Christian education is not just conducted among children because it could also be conducted among the adults, youth, men, and women but for the specificity and thrust of this work, we would just focus on the children and by God’s grace perhaps in the coming days, a CE⁹ work for the other age level will be also conducted. It is our desire to transform minds that children’s ministry is not just done within the perimeter of the church every Sunday but it could be done any day of the week. It could be done in our homes, at the park, at our schools, and of course in our local churches aside from our usual children’s work on Sunday. That is why this work is first and foremost for our beloved educators within our local church¹⁰. Educators who maybe working either in public square or private organizations or educators who are still in pursuit of their education degree are the target of this work. Therefore, the mere fact that you are reading this is because you are already part of this equipping endeavor and I pray that my shepherding on this process will be of great help for you as you unlock the training that you have garnered in your educational background and as we help one another to be immersed primarily on the Word because this is the only means that God has provided so that the children within our care may grow in the knowledge and in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 2: 1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18).

You maybe wondering why you are included in this work. It is because God really desires His people to grow and to participate in His work in grooming and growing His people. You are included because it is not an accident that you have taken up education as your professional career because after all, all things work together for good for those who love the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:28). My proposal to you is this, and I pray that you will meditate on it; *God has brought you to education, it maybe because you did not have any choice at all or perhaps your parents have just forced you to take up education but ultimately it is God’s plan that has really led you in this field because God desires the people to be taught about His Son- the Lord Jesus and all of your training and your training in the coming days will all be used for God’s heartbeat in making His Son known among the people.*

⁹ CE is an abbreviation for *Christian Education*

¹⁰ Placer Baptist Church is our local church or also known by us as PBC

Take note of this, how will people know Christ if no one will step up? How will people would step up if they will not be told how to step up? And how will they step up unless a challenge is given to them? (Rom. 10: 14-17). Now, there is a challenge and a burden to our local church and this is the Christian education work among our children. But first and foremost, it should start among us- the educators.

Let us always bear this in mind, as we continue this work, we are just servants in the field of God (1 Cor. 3: 5, 9). We may be starting to plant the seed of the Gospel and water the hearts of the people around us “... *but neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth*” (1 Cor. 3:7 ESV). But growth will not be savored by us if we will not also taste the responsibility that God has loaded for us. The question is this, are you up to it?

For God's greater glory,

ALEXANDE R. L. ARRANGUEZ JR.
Pastor-teacher of Placer Baptist Church

Background

Our rethinking, reworking, and improving of our children's work today is due to the fact that we have already seen its need before and all the more that it was pushed and motivated again within me because I being your pastor and teacher is under a graduate program of a particular seminary. However, as it is already mentioned, the burden is already existing prior to the graduate program and it is already the time where we have to really work out our Christian education for our children because you already have the tools and I already have the tools and training as well. Therefore, let us use these little pieces that we have that by God's grace we could bring eternal impacts to the lives of the children.

The series of lessons that we are going to talk about here will be written in English but during our one on one talk and group discussions, our sharing will be in our dialect so that we could really discuss the details about the lesson. It is also a contextualized series of lessons. Meaning, the things that we are going to talk about in this paper are the results of what we have talked about during our personal and individual talk. So, this is like personal stuff about our local church. That is why others may benefit from the things in this paper but technically most of the things that are written here will not be applied to other local churches because this is written primarily for the CE work of PBC's teachers.

We are going to have a lesson regarding the edge or the advantages that Christian teachers in the CE work. We are also going to talk about the common problems and hindrances that practicing teachers are having within our context. We are also going to talk on how we would help one another to find solutions for our problems. Discussion questions and reflective questions will also be given and other basic lessons and tools just to help the educators within our local church to be changed in regards to our perspective for our Children's ministry for the glory of God.

The lessons and the things that are documented on this paper are not designed to utter deep theological treatise but this paper is just designed to give basic theological and practical understanding for our Children's work in our church. However if discussions will go deeper, we should respond at the call of the situation but the aim of our work is just that, PBC's educators will be taught and prepared in the ministry that they have chosen so that they they will be confident to carry the task regardless of the challenges ahead. Our Christian educators already have the familiarity of being in the field of teaching. That is why we find it as an edge for our CE work. However, we still need a polishing and training in terms of the biblical principles so that as we hurl the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ among our children, He will be truly magnified because at the end of the day in every Children's work, the children's real need is not those children-temporal stuff during our children's ministry. Their need is the Word because their need is to know the Lord Jesus and it is done through giving them the Word (Fowler, 2012; Wilkinson, 1998). However, it is not just mere speaking to them the Word about Christ. There are things to consider and to look into. That is why you are part of this ministry within our local church! May God bless all the works of our hands for His glory in the coming days ahead.



What is the ministry of Christian Education for children really?

Many are having a hard time defining what Christian education really is. Some would say that as long as there is an integration of the bible in a lesson, a Christian education will occur. Others would also say that the curriculum should be based on the bible so that a Christian education will exist. But not necessarily, because even false churches use the bible for their curriculum. So what makes Christian education really Christian? The answer is simple yet the task behind the answer is huge.

Christian education is biblical and Christian when the Lord Jesus Christ is the goal and the model to imitate (Pazzimo, 2008; Wilkinson, 1998). The purpose of education is Christ. "... *All things were created through him and for him*" (Col. 1:16 ESV). Jesus Christ must be the center of every activity and lessons to be taught. Yes, we also acknowledge that there are extra curricular activities to do but these things also should be used so that Jesus Christ will be the goal even in the planned extra curricular events. While we also acknowledge that during our bible studies and Sunday school classes, we use the Old Testament stories for children and Christ is not yet present in those narratives as the obvious character in the plot of the stories. But the reality is that every thing about the bible is written to tell us about the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 24: 44; John 5: 46-47).

So, what is Christian education really? An education that is all about Christ where His principles and Word are exalted and obeyed in which we trust the Holy Spirit that transformation would occur because He will minister according to His will. According to Bruce Wilkinson, "True biblical teaching doesn't take place unless the students have learned. If they haven't learned, I haven't taught." This learning is not just for temporal cause but it is biblical and it is for the eternal cause. Thus, it is indeed a Christian education. Therefore, Christian education is for the glory of Christ and for the eternal bliss of those who would be transformed through Him.

Why is there a need of Christian Education for our children in our local church?



“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6 NKJV).

“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matt. 19:14 NIV).

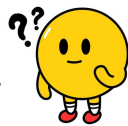
“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates” (Deut. 6: 6-9 NIV).

The verses that are mentioned above are written for its specific and primary audience and those were the Jews during the time of its writing. We are not Jews but there is a permanent element in those passages of Scriptures that are very obvious in the text and that is training, teaching, and letting the children come to the Lord Jesus. Why do we need to do such? Why do we need to train the children? What are the reasons why such concern seems to be so urgent in some of our local churches today especially in PBC?



1. It is God’s concern.

Ever since mankind has fallen short of the glory of God¹¹, God has already made a way. In fact, the bible has declared that the Son has already died before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Redeeming mankind including children is God’s concern and this redemption will be passed to the children by the grace of God and one of the means of doing this is that there are people who are willing to step up to teach God’s ways among the children. This is the very thing that God has told the Jews to do based on Deuteronomy 6. Yes, we are not Jews but the permanent element on this particular text is the teaching of God’s Word regardless of time and our race.



Questions to Ponder:

**What do you think about this common law in education that says, “You cannot teach what you do not have.” How does that law apply on Deuteronomy 6: 6-9?*

**Do you think that you need more equipping in order to equip other children as well? Are you intentional in your spiritual equipping in your life?*

**Is our church really into equipping us? What are the possible reasons why there are times that others are not in the direction of equipping?*

¹¹ Rom. 3:10, 23



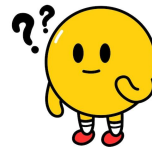
2. It is one of the many tasks given by God for the church.

We have already seen one of the common Old Testament Scriptures above that speaks to pass God's Word from generation to generation. This portion of the lesson will bring us to the common passage of the New Testament Scriptures too and that is the Great Commission in Matthew 28: 19-20. The church are the people who are converted to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and we are given a task not just to preach, teach, and convert people by the grace of God but by also teaching these individuals who have accepted the Gospel to be obedient in everything that the Lord Jesus has taught and commanded us to do and these instructions are clearly stated in the Great Commission.

As an application, that is why the church has bible studies and Christian education classes like Sunday school for children, youth, adult, and other Christian education works because it is God's concern that every believers will grow¹² in the knowledge and in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and by this, discipleship is really happening in the church.

Unfortunately, we have misconceptions now a days about our task in the Great Commission. Others will think about this task as mere programs and activities in the church. Other people will also think of this task as mere transferring of information and doctrines to individuals. But discipleship is more than those mentioned things. Discipleship is helping and journeying with your fellow Christians to savour God's grace everyday and to be conformed into the image of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. So this task for the church in making disciples of all nations is not a one-time event but it is a consistent way of life regardless of the response of the people around us.

Questions to Ponder:



**How would you define biblical discipleship?*

**What are the common mistakes of the people today when they hear the word "disciples" or "making disciples" or "discipleship"?*

**What are the ways that Jesus Christ has said in making disciples based on Matthew 28?*

**Are there any struggles in making disciples? What do you think are those? How would we cope up with those impending struggles?*

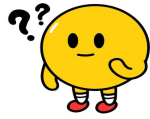


3. This concern is not just educational in nature but it is eternal.

Let us remember that we are not doing Christian education for our children just to impact their physical life alone. We are doing this so that we could prepare our children for eternity. "Truth is to be integrated into all of life and is to affect the moment-to-moment and day-today existence of the people of God. Christian educators are to make clear God's offer of life or death" (Pazzimo, 2008). That is why we have already proposed to you during our interviews and informal talk that Christian education is not just done during our Sunday school classes but this could be done any day of the week because every one needs God's Word as our food¹³ every day and there are people daily who really need God's help especially our dear children.

¹² 1 Pet. 2: 1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18

¹³ Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4



Questions to ponder:

**What is your idea on the proposal that Christian education for children is not just done during the Lord's day but it could be done any day? Do you agree on this or not? Why?*

**How would our local church implement such concern? What do you think are some practical steps that we would do so that we could really live according to our principle that Christian education is not just for Sunday?*

**What are some of the challenges that we might encounter and face as we campaign and live according to the proposal above?*

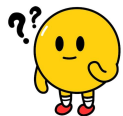


4. We train children not just for eternity but as we wait for that glorious day, they would also make an impact in our society.

Christians are to make an impact in the world because we are the light of the world (Matt. 5:17). Yes, we are to set our minds on things that are above¹⁴ but on the other hand, we are still instructed to reach out unbelievers through the Words of Christ and the works of Christ that are entrusted for us. That is why we are exhorted to be careful with our walk in the sight of the unbelieving community (Col. 4:5).

The purpose of Christian education is not just to prepare our children to meet their Maker but we educate them so that they will be equipped to put their learning in real life situation and we put them into discipleship process whether in a classroom set up or even in our informal and personal talk with them so that they would be missions-minded as well (Frank, 2013). The bible is not just for the purpose of increasing our knowledge about God but it is for relevance and connecting God's Word to our present life as well. However, the bible is not only focused on relevance alone but that relevance will be guided by the truth of the Scriptures. One of the downsides not just in preaching today but most especially in our Christian education is this; God's Word seems to be so academic already to the point that its connection to the life of the children and its hearers are not explicit anymore. Stories in the bible are just becoming mere narratives already and hermeneutics and exegesis are done just to impress and satisfy academic minds with empty hearts (Fowler, 2012).

As a reminder, we should be Christian educators who must taste and see first and foremost within ourselves the very truth of the Word of God so that we may be able to express and impress God's Word into the hearts of our listeners especially our children.



Questions to ponder:

**Why do we need balance in teaching between the explanation and the application of God's Word?*

**What do you think is/are the reason/s why some Christian educators would fall to one of the extremes between explanation or application?*

¹⁴ Col. 3: 1-2

**What might be the practical steps to avoid mere information transfer or giving only applications that have no biblical foundations?*

Who are our children?

In our ministry to our children, it is important also to know who and what they are according to the lens of the Scripture so that our service for them will please God and our aims will be in lined to the message of the Gospel of Christ.

There are plenty of opinions of what man is now a days. But the bible is saying that man (including children) is created in the very image of God¹⁵ and this image is marred by sin therefore, mankind was separated from God (Gen. 3; Rom. 3:10, 23; 6:23).

Today, people outside the lens of the bible, they would just say that man is just a rational being, or a machine that is created to just work. Others would say that man is the highest form of the animal specie. There are plenty of views in regards with man. Some people would not just say that man is rational or a machine nor an animal but they would also add that man is an economic being, free beings, and social beings.¹⁶

But what man really is? Or perhaps, who are children really? “The doctrine of humanity is important because of the present crisis in human understanding” (Erickson, 2013). According to our resource on the theology of man, one of the struggle of man is his knowledge about who is he. Man has a lot of things that he knows about other things but when speaking about who and what he is, a confusion arises (Erickson, 2013).

We should view man and our children first and foremost that our existence is not because of mere chance or any process of secular evolution but through a conscious, purposeful act by an intelligent, infinite person and God has already said in His Word His intention in creating mankind (Erickson, 2013). Children have souls and eternal dimension. Therefore, when we ask who are children really, we should ask our Maker who they are and forsake the temporal and worldly opinions regarding our children so that, we will be guided by the One who has created our children and that is God Himself.

A. Children are created in the very image of God

This is very explicit in the bible. That is why children though in their young age, they are able to forgive, love, and show mercy because these are the characters of God that was shared by our Creator with mankind. But here is the problem:

B. Children are also sinners who are in need of God’s grace

While the world will tell us about the full potential of a child academically and socially, the bible does not however negate the personal development of children in the aspect of the academic information and skills. God has given mankind skills and talents. However, we should not erase in the view of biblical anthropology about the rebellion of mankind and children is



¹⁵ Gen. 1: 26-27

¹⁶ These views about secular anthropology is taken on the book of Erickson as he refutes these worldly point of views of man in the portion of his book Intro to the Doctrine of Humanity (Erickson, Millard. 2013. *Christian Theology* 3rd Ed. Grand Rapids: MI, Baker Academic).

included on Paul's statement that *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and there is none that is righteous, no not one* according to the apostle (Rom. 3:10, 23).

We know that in worldly point of view, this seems to be harsh but the reality is this, children are not innocent and are also sinners who could be a recipient of God's grace through Christ. While we acknowledge that there are theological questions that would arise on this issue, our theological resource Millard Erickson seems to lean on the age of accountability of a child and therefore if a child does not yet reach this age, a child is saved not because a child is good but because the child's Saviour who is Jesus is so good (Erickson, 2013)¹⁷.

However, we are not talking about the passive grace of God but we are talking about the activeness of God's way of casting His abundant grace to mankind through the preaching and teaching of His Word. Therefore, God uses Christian teachers to propagate the message of the grace of the Gospel of Christ for our dear children (Rom. 10: 13-17). And that is where the focus of our work and service must start among our children. God is the in-charge of their salvation but let us always remember that God has given us the task of preaching and teaching this sweet salvation that we have received in Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone, and for the glory of God alone (Eph. 2: 1-10).

C. Children are saved by God's grace to also be instruments of God's salvation for others

That is why we have Christian education because we are not just to tell them about the stories of the bible but we are to bring them to Christ. But that is not all. We also equipped our children to also snatch others from the fire¹⁸ for God desires all men to come into the saving knowledge of Christ¹⁹ and Children could be an instrument by God in saving people through Christ. After all, there is no age limit where God cannot do great things using His dear children in their young age (Fowler, 2012). We have heard a lot of testimonies regarding this matter that through the children, adults like parents and grandparents are saved because the Holy Spirit has moved through the lives of those changed children in Christ.

How do we impact our children for biblical discipleship?

We have already discussed who our children are, their need of the Gospel, and the impact that they could do by God's grace not just in ecclesiastical matters, or in social area, but all the more for eternity. In this portion, we would know how we would make an impact into the hearts of our children.²⁰ We say to impact the hearts because our heart is our problem in the sight of God and it is the bull's eye of the children's ministry (Fowler, 2012). According to Fowler, there are three reasons behind this reality. Firstly, whenever there is a spiritual training, the heart is always mentioned in the bible (Deut. 4:9; 6: 7-9; 32:46; Psa. 119:9; Prov. 3:1). Secondly, whenever the bible would mention the heart, it points out to man's inner being that should be healed and fed through God's Word. Thirdly, the heart is where a child thinks (Matt. 12: 34-35). Therefore, the heart is the totality of the person of an individual. This is the place of our soul, affection, and cognitive. Therefore, it should be impacted.

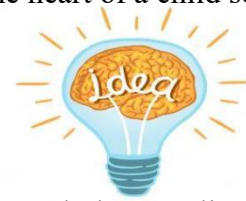
¹⁷ He also discussed this issue on the 2nd ed of his book, --Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology.*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998), page 654.

¹⁸ Jude 23

¹⁹ 1 Tim. 2: 4-5

²⁰ Majority of the things that are written on this portion is taken from the book by Fowler, Larry. 2012. *Rock-Solid Children's Ministry*. Regal From Gospel Light, Ventura, California, USA.

There are seven ways according to him, how we could impact the heart of a child so that we could disciple them to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.



Seven ways to impacts the heart or thinking of a child²¹

1. Modeling

Children are taught not just through the lessons but especially through the very lives of the people around them. There is a saying that “*Christianity is caught rather than taught.*” This saying does not indicate that we will not teach anymore but the maxim says that the teachers and ministers among the children are first and foremost doers of God’s Word rather than just mere talkers of the bible.

2. Testing

It means that we should provide a challenge or an avenue practically to our children what it really means to apply the lessons in real life situations. We should show to them the good sides of obedience to our parents for example. So that, they would feel and comprehend the relevance of such learning in their very own life.²² On the other hand, we also show to them the consequences of disobedience.

3. Emotion

According to the advocate of this principle, emotion is the highway to the heart and it leaves great impact on the children. Children do remember extreme emotions such as extreme anger and extreme happiness. The point of the author is this, the ministers to the children should also have this extreme passion of emotion for the spiritual things because as an emotional being too, this human emotional aspect should be impacted by God’s Word as well.

4. Repetition

Repetition is one of the ways also to impact our children. It helps the retention of our lessons. However, we also acknowledge that this is just practical way because at the end of the day it is the Spirit who would really implant God’s Word in the heart of our children. There is a saying that says, “*It is our job to deliver the Word of God to the ears and minds of the people and it is the Spirit’s job to bring this Word into the heart of the people.*” But then again, this does not mean that ministers among the children will just be lacks of making strategies to impact them. This is the reason why all the more we should really be hardworking in doing our responsibility because the sovereignty of God does not take away our responsibility in the discipleship process. So, we would keep on repeating and repeating God’s Word to our children just like the strategy of the Apostle Peter (2 Pet. 1:12).

5. Question

We should also use the art of questioning to impact children’s thinking. When we do questioning, we would know where our children already at in their thinking skills and we are

²¹ Taken from the book of Larry Fowler, “Seven ways to impact Children’s Thinking”

²² My example on this point is my little daughter GA. I told her the practicality and help of being able to read. She likes to sing but she could not read the lyrics. That is why I motivated her to really practice reading. We should test our children’s learning to be relevant in their own lives.

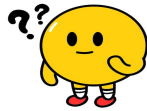
also teaching them to be inquisitive as well. In teaching our children, we do not just want them to answer questions but we also desire that they should be investigative too.

6. Consistency

This point is not the same with repetition because this point does not just refer to the consistency of lesson equipping for our children but this also talks about the consistent works of the whole church and the whole children's ministry team in their Christian walk, doctrines, and ways in doing the ministry. Consistency means a lot so that children will not be confused in the aspect of theology, methodology, and most especially the application of God's Word in our lives.

7. Reconciliation

This point refers to the discipline that we impose either corrective or formative. Corrective discipline is the training and positive consequences that we give to the children when they are unruly and disobedient. This corrective discipline must first and foremost present within the family. Local churches also do this in a godly way and according to the ways of Christ²³. Formative discipline points to the lessons that we form so that the minds of our children will be transformed through the Word of God²⁴. Nevertheless, the aim of this point is that through the Word of God, there will be restoration and reconciliation vertically (God) and through this reconciliation, it will also flow in horizontal aspect (church/people around) especially in the lives of our children even if they are still young. We aim discipline among our people because the disciples of Christ are disciplined.



Questions to ponder for discussion:

**Are we trying our very best to be a good model in speech, conduct, and doctrine to our children? What are the factors in our lives that affect this modeling responsibility and ministry for our young ones?*

**How would we apply the practicality of point number 2 on the seven ways of Fowler? Share any thoughts on this.*

**If we are going to rate 1-10 about our emotion to the heavenly things while we are here on earth, what would be our rating to ourselves and why?*

**What practical ways could we add to improve our repetition strategy for our children's work?*

**When children keeps on asking questions to you, what is our feeling? Irritated or not? Why?*

**What might be the factors that hinder us in our consistent walk with our works for our children in the church? How would we solve such hindrances?*

²³ Matt. 18: 15-20; 1 Cor. 5: 1-13; 1 Tim. 5: 19-21

²⁴ Rom. 12:2

**What are our thoughts and impressions when we hear the word “discipline”? Is discipline a help for reconciliation or restoration process or not? What practical disciplines for our children that we could impose as Christian teachers in our local church?*

The Benefits of a Biblical and Christian Education within a local church²⁵



This segment in our lesson is the collection of your ideas during our personal talk regarding on the question *why Christian Education for our children is really important in our local church?* We are going to talk about those answers here and here are your opinions on the matter:

1. Christian Education for our children is important because it is the way we pass the message of the biblical Gospel to the next generation.

According to one of our resources, “Children is the most important persons in the local church” (Frank, 2013). This is not to say that the other people are not but the point is this, our children will be the next who would handle the youth ministry and even the adult ministry later in the church and if they are not taught in the ways of Christ, the future of our local church is at stake.

2. Christian Education for our children is important because it is one of the ways where Christian family/parents are empowered to really see the need for this ministry.

Family ministry is very important because this is one of the ways we could really share the beautiful Gospel of the Lord Jesus consistently and truthfully and this reality does not change even in this 21st century time (Jutilla, Wideman, and Verval, 2007; Frank, 2013). That is why God has commanded Israel’s elders, fathers, and Jewish parents who are the heads of the family to carry out family ministry for children (Deut. 6: 4-9). Parents are given a task to be the first teachers of the Word of God to their children and this reality is not just for the Jews but it is also given for all family who has known God through the Lord Jesus Christ even in our time today. This is not one time work but a lifetime of work in each of our family

3. Christian Education for our children is important because it is one of the ways where we could counter the teachings of the world through the teachings of Christ.

Christian education is not just to prepare and orient our people what is really in the world but it is also to prepare them for spiritual warfare. The authors of the Scriptures have said these verses, “*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...*” (Eph. 6: 11-12 ESV). “*... Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...*” (1 Pet. 3:15 ESV).

Christian education is our defense and offense against the works of the darkness and we have to really persevere in this task so that we could witness and make soldiers of Christ who will stand up against those preachers together with their false and twisted teaching about the Gospel of Christ.

²⁵ Majority of the things that are written in this portion are taken from our interview on the question *Why is Christian Education in our local church is so important?* I also added some on this portion for clarifications and reinforcement as well.

Christian education is not just redemptive in the aspect of our eternal bliss but it is also redemptive for the twisted and worldly principles. Imagine this, our children are mostly marinated and oriented on the things of this world. If they are studying in the public school, they listen for 8 hours and more from their unbelieving teachers and professors. If they have cellphones and internet, they often see the things of the unbelievers and if we would just be lacks and slow in the work of Christian education, the devil and darkness will have the pace instead of Christians. We should really be aware of these things.

4. Christian education for our children is important because it is part of the Great Commission of Christ for the glory of God.

The very motivation of Christian Education is the glory of God and God is glorified when people know the Son- the Lord Jesus²⁶. In doing this, teaching is important. That is why in the Great Commission, teaching is part of the discipleship process. Jesus said in Matthew 28, believers are to make disciples, and part of making disciples is teaching these men and women to observe all that Jesus has commanded us written in the bible (v. 19). Therefore, as we already have discussed above, a disciple of Christ is someone who has been taught and is still under the teaching of God's Word through God's sent ministers.

5. Christian education for our children is important because it is one of the ways to produce mission-minded Christians who will be involved in missions works in the future.²⁷

The Great Commission's fulfillment is not just to convert people to Christ and feed them with doctrines but it is also done to encourage our people especially our children to also reach out other children through this Great Mandate of the Lord Jesus so that when they grow, we would see group of grown up children who are willing to take the steps just to make the Lord Jesus known through them internationally and even locally.

6. Christian education for our children is important because many churches now are already unhealthy.

We believe that it is God's design that His people will be gathered in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the head of this body of believers²⁸. We also believe that the church is the forerunner of the things that God has commanded for His people²⁹. Meaning to say, in these last days, the church is given a charge to maintain the works, campaign the importance of biblical CE in the fellowship, and lead the people to the beauty of Christ because the church is the pillar of truth about the Lord Jesus Christ and we have to proclaim Christ to all the people especially to our children (1 Tim. 3:15)!

We are already in the age where local churches are now worldly. We are now at the age where the Scriptures are already taken for granted. People are malnourished spiritually because they are not fed with proper spiritual meal by those ministers who also do not know how to pastor God's flock. Therefore, they will be accountable to the Great Shepherd so, we are as well (2 Cor. 5:10; Gal.1: 6-9)!

²⁶ John 17: 1-5, 10

²⁷ More lecture on this is on the book by Frank, Ryan. 2013. *Give Me Jesus*. Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, Minnesota on the part "Equipping Children to Be Missional."

²⁸ Eph. 1: 22-23; 5:23; Col. 2:19

²⁹ Matt. 16: 18-19; 18: 19-20; Eph. 3: 10-12

We have already discussed above that Christian education is redemptive when we are teaching our people especially our children with right and Christ-centered truths and by this, we are helping our churches to go back to the Word and thus, its effect is very huge because it will help our dying churches to be alive again through the biblical and Christ-centered education and equipping in our local church.

Questions for discussion and sharing:

**What point in the lesson can you really relate with and why?*

**Share something about your family/parents. How did they impact you in growing? It could be in the aspect of academic endeavor, talents and skills, and it could also be in knowing the Lord.*

**Why do you think it is very important to build a family that is really founded in Christ?*



What are our ministries for our children in our own context in our local church?

This portion in our equipping is the labour part of our CE. The ministry and works that will be mentioned here are the works that we have chosen during our interview days because we think and feel comfortable in doing our chosen contribution for the Christian education work for our children. In this portion, we will be talking about practical tips, theological points, and ways to properly and soundly execute the ministry of literacy, bible study, prayer meeting, evangelism, devotion, visitation, and of course Sunday school for our children in PBC.

Sunday School/Family Devotion/Bible Study

We are all familiar of this work already. But sometimes even if we are already used to do these things, we do this wrongly. We would address this work in general and this is the explanation of the Word to our children. Sunday school, family devotion, and bible study sessions for our children are indeed into the explanation of the Word of God. Here are the tips that would be helpful for this work:



1. Consistent scheduling really matters

Children are individuals who really like routines. Their retention and learning are fast when there is a consistent flow of the things that we desire them to do. Are we not wondering why among our ministry in our children the Sunday school work never dies? What is the reason behind? (Of course, God will never allow it to die) But practically, the answer is this, there is an obvious and clear schedule that children would really meet in the church to attend the class. That is why in our family devotion and bible study, we should really make a schedule that is available and at least convenient for every one.

2. Make it simple

Children are children. They are not bible scholars. Actually, they just listen to us when we would talk to them and they will believe. That is how simple their thinking is. However, when

we say, simplicity, we do not mean to be lacks in our explanation of the Word to them. What we meant is that, we do not want to be so abstract when we talk about theology to them but we want to teach them doctrines that has a practical relevance in our earthly life.

Sometimes in our complicated family devotion, we think that we are in a seminary to the point that we forget that we are talking and teaching our children. The talk should be relational, personal, simple, yet biblical.

There are pages in the book *Creative Bible Teaching*³⁰ that we will be looking at so that the lessons on those pages will help us develop an understandable, simple, yet Christ-centered family devotion or bible study for our children. This will be done during our sharing and activity time.

3. Mastery is also the key

When we say mastery, we do not mean that we have to be bible scholars. We just have to be teachers who know what we are teaching. We should know the meaning of the Word of God then and its meaning to us now. When we say mastery, we do not mean that we want complications as we teach children. We should just read the bible. If the passages that we have chosen is long, let us make it short. 10 engaging minutes of studies is better than 30 or 1 hour of rambling bible study.

4. Teaching children is not only transferring info to them but helping them establish a pattern of the bible in them

This is the reason why our bible studies with children should never be boring but at the same time, it is not just for entertainment only. Engaging them is the key rather than entertaining them. This means that we should train them to ask question and also we should train them to answer questions as well.

5. Make it also short and impress one main idea of lesson in them

Since they are still children, they will not remember plenty of things in one sitting only. That is why a consistent pattern of teaching ministry to them really matters. They are not one click individuals. We need to persevere in teaching them. One way to persevere in teaching them is to only give one main idea of lesson to them in every meeting with them. This one idea may be divided into sub points but the point is this, as we conduct our studies with them, we do not want to give them plenty of information that will not matter in their lives.

There is no explicit way of saying how short is short. I think the time here is not necessarily the issue but the basis would be the directness of the presentation and the inculcation of the point into the hearts of the listeners the moment they would hear the clear message. Thus, the main point is this, we do not want to insert a lot of things in our studies with our children that is “*pamatay oras*” only. But, we give them right away the things that they need as they study the Word of God.

³⁰ Richards, Lawrence O. & Gary J. Bredfeldt. 1998. *Creative Bible Teaching*. Chicago: Mood Press. We are going to study and photocopy important diagrams on how to conduct, prepare, and teach simple yet biblical lessons for family devotions, bible studies, and Sunday school on “*The Creative Bible Teacher’s Inductive Study Method*” and “*Structuring the Lesson*” using the Hook, Book, Look, & Took approach.

6. Do not be discouraged if they are still unresponsive

In ministering to our children, we do not look short but we look 15 years and beyond. The behaviour of the children are not necessarily the basis of their growth though sometimes we may think this way but always remember that we are doing spiritual things and only the Spirit of God has the power to change the spirit of the children that we are ministering³¹. Let us not be discouraged as we teach them that sometimes they are very unruly or they do not respond and behave the way we desire them to be. Let us just continue to plant the seed of the Gospel in them because after all, the Lord of the Harvest is the One who would make the Gospel grow in them (Matt. 9: 37-38; 1 Cor. 3:7).

7. Follow this simple pattern in the body of your message; Read the bible, Teach the bible, and Pray.

We are not saying that doing songs and games, and other things during our studies with children are already wrong. But what we are pointing out here is this, the plain reading, teaching, and praying if done consistently, biblically, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, simple it may be but it will surely bring an impact to our young ones in the church beyond our imagination. While we could do games or singing prior to the lesson or after the lesson, this basic flow of teaching them the Word would be very helpful for us ministers not just in our perseverance but even in our clarity. Just read, teach, and pray.

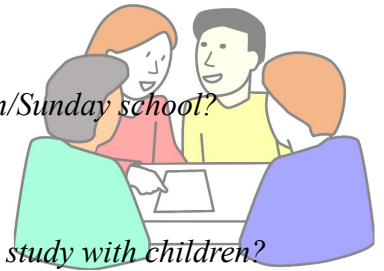
Questions for sharing and discussions:

**How do you feel when children are unruly during your bible study/devotion/Sunday school?*

**What practical ways do you do to control them?*

**Have you become impatient and burst your unrighteous anger during your study with children? What did you feel after your unrighteous anger?*

**What hinders us to be consistent in doing things for children's ministry? Do you think that consistency and inconsistency has impact in this work? What would it be?*



Prayer Meeting



In teaching our children to obey everything that the Lord Jesus has taught us, prayer is one of the things that Christ has taught us. Therefore, it should also be taught to our children. We already mentioned things above that will really help us in this. We would just repeat those here and add some tips as we do this work.

Common in our local churches that prayer meeting is for adults or youth only and rarely we see children who are included in prayer meetings in the church. There are plenty of so called practical reasons in our minds why we do not include children in our prayer meetings and some of those are valid but not necessarily healthy in the spiritual growth of our children.

These are the following tips how we would do the ministry of prayer meeting including our children in our local church.

³¹ John 3:5; 16: 8-15; 1 Cor. 2: 10-16

1. Prayer meetings should start at home

There is no other way where children would know how to pray. Parents are the one who should teach them first and foremost. But what if, the parents are not Christian? The second point is essential.

2. Children have to see models in prayer

This is the work of the church. We have to continue in praying so that children would see models to imitate.

3. Children pray when there are children

By this, we do not mean that this is the only way. But practically speaking, since we are training them, we desire that groups of children will be trained not just in their homes but even in our local churches. That is why during prayer meeting schedules in the church, children should also be invited and let them be led by an *ate* or *kuya* in their separate group during church prayer meeting and be able to also join them to the whole church after their group.

4. Ask them occasionally about their prayer request

By this, we mean that training them in prayer is not just during the prayer schedules. But even after the Sunday service, this training could still continue by asking the children about their prayer concerns. Even when we meet them on the street or in chat, we could inculcate to them the importance of prayer.

5. Teach them

This is not just teaching them memorized prayers or memorized routine before praying but this is teaching the children about the theology of prayer in their level. Find verses in the bible that talks about prayer and discuss these scriptures during bible studies or family devotions.

Questions for discussions and sharing:

**What impact would it bring to our children when they are included in prayer meetings and when they are taught to pray?*

**What hinders us in teaching our children to pray? How could we solve the hindrances?*



Visitation

In a local church, visitation is usually done when there are members who for a while have not been present in the church but rarely is doing this visitation to our children. When children do not attend the Sunday school or bible study, are there teams in the church who would try to reach them out? Here are the reasons why we should also conduct visitation to them:



1. Children could be lost in their way in following Jesus too

If adults could detour another way, how much more our children! They need encouragements too. They need appreciation too because they are also human beings who need the grace of the Lord Jesus. And sometimes this grace is manifested to the people whom Jesus is using to exhort people and let us all remember that children is also included on the people that we should reach out in our local church. We are not talking about eternal salvation here but we are talking about our responsibility in taking care of one another especially our children.

2. Visitation is not just for our children but all the more for their parents

We could see a lot of Scripture passages that children are very trustful individuals³². That is why there are stories that children tend to believe in Christ first rather than their parents. That is why when we do visitation, we do not just reach the children but also their parents and plus, the children would also see the modeling that we are doing especially in the aspect of reaching out or evangelism.

3. Visitation helps us to display our love towards people

We visit not just to make them attend the church but we visit because of our concern to them that we have learned from Christ Himself (Matt. 18: 10-14). People may think that this is just an easy ministry but there is no easy ministry in reality. In doing visitation, there are plenty of surprises along the way but on the other hand we could also surprise people of the love of Christ that He has extended for us and that is the reason why we are extending this to other people too.

4. Visitation helps us in our lesson preparation

When we do visitation we could see good or bad theology in practice personally. That is why when we experience and see face to face those things, our theology will be polished in the lens of reality under the guidance of the Word. After all, we do not want to be just teachers within the church perimeter only. We desire to be teachers all the time and to teach the lessons of the Gospel in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2).

5. Visitation would help us get to know more our children

Relationship will not be deeper in just one sitting within the duration of one hour only. Relationship should be nurtured and one way of nurturing relationship is through communication. In our visitation, we communicate. We speak but all the more we should really listen. We listen to the feed back of the children to our lessons and the church and the things around them so that through listening, we also learn (James 1:19).

6. Visitation is important because it brings an unspoken message that you can be approached and talked to

In doing visitation, you are also saying that you are a friend and not a threat because you are making yourself known to the people that you are visiting to. You are not just knowing them but you are letting yourself be an open book as well.

³² Luke 16:18; Matt. 18: 1-5

Questions for discussions and sharing:

**Is visitation for relational people only? What do you think?*

**What more practical tips do you know or do you want to share in doing visitation?*

**What might be the problems that we could encounter in doing this ministry?*



Literacy Work

What we just the bible but writing, counting,



mean by literacy work is that, we teach children not we teach them the basics of education; reading, and talking properly. We do literacy work for our children because as we impact their spiritual lives, we are convinced that it has also an effect to their social and academic lives. On the other hand, when we also do literacy works for our children, this could also be a means to connect to them and be friends with them that later could be an avenue in sharing the Gospel to them.

Here are some of the benefits of doing literacy works for our children:

- 1. It is a message to the world that the bible is not just for eternity but it is also for guiding us in our practical lives here on earth.**
- 2. Doing literacy works for our children would somehow be an eye opener for going outside the box in the aspect of doing ministries in our local churches.**
- 3. Doing literacy works for our children is one of the ways to serve the children, their parents, and our community the way Jesus has served.**
- 4. This ministry fits for those who have educational degree in our local church.**
- 5. This ministry is badly needed by the Department of Education in our country.**
- 6. This ministry may be our instrument and connection to the parents of the children and to the community so that Christ will be known.**

Questions for discussions and sharing:

**What other advantages in our local church could this ministry bring?*

**What might be the possible things to do especially with those members in our church who are involved in Christian schools, personal tutors, and teaching in public and privates schools so that Christ will be known through their literacy works? How could we empower them more to Christian education? Any idea to share?*



Evangelism



”One of the most exciting times of ministering to children is watching them respond to the Gospel and give their lives to Jesus” (Fowler, 2012). We do evangelism in the church to make disciples. It is either we train individuals to evangelize or we evangelize so that they will follow Christ are all part of the process in making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Evangelism is one of the indications that a church is healthy. Evangelism is not just done outside the church but all the more those who are already within our reach, we have to make it sure that the Gospel is demonstrated by us and heard by them.

Here are some practical tips to consider in doing evangelism to our children:³³

1. Use words that children can really understand

According to our resource, we should be careful in using words that are unfamiliar to our children. However, we should also be careful at the same time in simplicity to the point that we are already watering down the Gospel (Fowler, 2012). We should really tell the important messages in the Gospel. We should tell people and not just children that we are sinners and God is Holy. Therefore, God hates sin and even the sinner. However, God loves us. It may seem ironic but this is the language of the bible. That is why God has sent His Son and all who would believe in the Son would have forgiveness of sins and newness of life. Let us bear in our mind that no matter how eloquent or structured we are in our Gospel presentation, the only One who could bring the message of the Gospel into the hearts of the children or any person is the Holy Spirit and therefore, we trust Him but it does not say that we would just neglect our part.

2. We could use object lessons, visual aids, props, and other materials to explain the Gospel³⁴

Jesus as the Great Master Teacher has also used materials in teaching the message of the Kingdom of God and it is not sin to imitate Christ as well. Children are very concrete individuals. That is why one of the effective ways to communicate to them is that, they should feel, see, and touch the lesson that we are teaching to them.

3. The Gospel presentation must be simple and short for the question and answer portion

Again, this point is already discussed above but the point on this is that, as long as the Gospel elements are already in the presentation, we stop and we proceed to question and answer so that a two-way communication will happen. Questions like, “*Would you agree that human being is very disobedient to God’s law?*” “*What is your evidence that man is disobedient?*” “*Why do you think that Jesus is the only way that we could be forgiven despite of our disobedience?*” etc.

³³ The practical tips to do evangelism to the children are taken from Fowler, Larry. 2012. *Rock- Solid Children’s Ministry*. Regal From Gospel Light, Ventura, California, USA.

³⁴ An EvangeCube and other evangelism materials will be introduced during our session so that teachers will know how to use those.

4. After the Gospel presentation to children, we may visit them

This might be hard because when we share the Gospel to people the usual thing that we would do is to just do nothing after our evangelism. We have this lame reason sometimes that we thought we trust the Holy Spirit but in reality we do not just want to be stretched more in this work. Another reason that visitation is hard because sometimes the children that we shared the Gospel with are plain outsiders from the church and we do not know what would be the reactions of their parents or guardians if ever we would do visitation. So, what are we going to do about this?

When we conduct visitation to children who are outsiders from our church, giving tracks or bible would be the best way to introduce ourselves to the family of the children. Saying to them our complete name, address, and even our work would decrease the worry and doubts of their guardians and we should expect hostility when we do visitation so that we will be prepared. After our evangelism to the children, we should never forget to do the following so that we would not just leave the children with the message that is just for head but also for their feet and hands.

A. Tell the children who have heard the Gospel to read the Gospel of John in their bibles.

If they do not have a bible, tell them that you will visit them and that you will bring a bible. Tell the children in advance too that you might visit them so that when you will indeed visit though there is hostility at least you are an expected hostile!

B. Tell the children where they could find you

It is necessary so that the children and parents especially here in our place would know the clean intention that you have. Tell the children about the future activities or the weekly activities in our church that they could attend with other children as well. Telling your information about yourself to children will also help the children that if ever they have questions about the bible, they could just approach and ask you.

C. Tell the children that they have to grow in the knowledge and in the grace of Christ

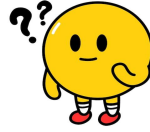
This should be included in the Gospel presentation so that children would know at their young age that to follow Christ is not just a lip declaration but it is a life that is being changed by the Lord Jesus Christ everyday. Give them practicalities of this point. The children have to know that one of the evidences of growth is the desire to read and listen the Word, prayer, fellowship with other believers, the manifestation of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and the desire to tell and live for Jesus everyday. The children who have heard the Gospel are to grow because Children are never too young to also do great things for God (Fowler, 2012)!

D. Be friendly to all of the children in your community and even outside our place

It means that we should be friends to children because we would never know that the children that we are meeting in the market place, park, school or in whatever places we would go are the same children who have heard the Gospel from us. So, it would be very ironic if we are just good at talking to them if we have a transaction with them but how about if they are just alone? Would we act to comfort those children that we would see who need someone to talk to? Or would we just neglect them? Remember, they are more into concrete messages. They need visual aids. That is why they need to see Jesus in us and through our deeds and convictions in life.

E. Pray

After all, our work is just to bring the Gospel into their minds and ears and as to the One who would bring the message of the Gospel into their hearts is God Himself. So, that is why we wrap with prayers the before, during, and after our evangelism because we know that God alone who could change the hearts and lives of the children and even those adults ones. That is why we really need to pray.



Questions for discussions and sharing:

**What other thoughts you could share in telling the Gospel to our children? SHARE.*

**Who has already shared the Gospel to some street children? How was your experience?*

Who will be sent?

We are already done in part of this lesson. Now, we challenge portion. We have discussions not just to fill our more that as our inner beings hands and feet would respond



and task of those who have embraced the message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We need shepherds for our children. These shepherds are not just the pastors in the church office but those people who have the heart for the lost and for his/her brethren just like the Lord Jesus (Laniak, 2006). We have already proposed to our dear educators here in our local church during our interviews, fellowship, discussion, and sharing that the ministry of Christian education especially in our target, our dear children are for the Christian educators in our church for the following reasons:

the theological and practical are already in the action and conducted lessons and brains and hearts but all the are strengthened so that our to the call of the responsibility

***You have already the academic skills and training to handle students.**

***You only needed a little polishing on theology and some biblical perspective on Christian education.**

***You are already well-oriented about the different attitude of the children inside and outside the classroom set up.**

***Lesson preparations, seminar, training, and studies are not new to you anymore.**

***Above all, you are a Christian who is not just a believer but an educator whose heart beats for our children that they may know the Lord Jesus.**

So the question is that, are you going to take the challenge? Are you going to do the ministry? Are we going to help one another so that our beloved children would know the Gospel of the Lord Jesus? Will you take the step though it may look dim as of now?

“Challenges that awaits us”

In conclusion to all of these, leading people to Christ is not an easy task. Doing Jesus' works would push us to carry our own crosses too. It is already in the narrow path that we have to face. We have to face our weaknesses too as we do the task but let us remembers this, “God’s power operates best in human weakness. Weakness is the arena in which God can most effectively manifest His power (Stott, 2002). In reality, our equipping will not that be complete and deep. Your pastor and church teachers will not be able to teach everything to you and you have to learn on your own. Learning sometimes occur through the good experiences and bad ones and of course through our constant abiding in the Word. If we want revival in any of the ministry in our local church, God’s Word must be planted in the hearts of the people then, a genuine revival would happen (Wilkinson, 1998). There will be no Christ-centered and lasting change for eternity unless God’s Word is honored and faithfully preached and taught. No wonder Paul has said to the young minister Timothy these words, *“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers”* (1 Tim. 4: 15-16 NIV).

We, Bible teachers are accountable on the lives of the people that we are teaching (James 3:1; Heb. 13:17). Therefore, we should make this concern of having a biblical, Christ-centered, and Gospel-saturated Christian education in our local church an urgent matter and not just a matter of past time activity and mere religiosity because we are dealing with eternity here. We are helping people to be prepared in heaven while they are here on earth otherwise they will be in hell. I do not know if there is a weightier reason to be motivated than that! Paul said, *“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died”* (2 Cor. 5:14 NIV). It is the love of Christ that dwells within Paul why he did not want his brethren to be lost. That attitude is worth imitating by all bible preachers and teachers and especially by all the Christian teachers of Placer Baptist Church.

As we close these series of lessons, here is our comfort from our Master. Christ has given us a mandate to make disciples of all nations but He did not just leave us with burdens to bear. He left us with grace and whenever we would feel tired and quitting. He has assured us that He has not abandoned us instead He said, *“... I am with you always to very end of the age”* (Matt. 28:20 NIV). Our Master did not want us to carry this burden alone. In fact, He has already won. He has risen and we have victory in Him. If you will see darkness in our Christian education among our children ahead, know this, the light has already won and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5).

Be of good cheer! Enjoy the victory that we have in Christ though the pain might pinch us a little more here on earth. The world has no sting in us anymore. That is why this remarkable conclusion by Paul is worth repeating over and over again to encourage our brothers to persevere in the ministry. *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain”* (1 Cor. 15:58 NIV).

God bless my dear Christian educators in Placer Baptist Church. May you feel, know, and see that I really treasure you and I love every one of you. Thank you for also teaching me.

For God's greater glory,

ALEXANDE R. I. ARRANGUEZ JR.
Pastor-teacher of Placer Baptist Church

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³⁵ All of these books are just e-books downloaded on zlibrary.com for free. If you cannot access the site, I could give you a copy of these books. Included also on this documents are the pictures taken from google.

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This is the app that I taught and introduced to our parents in the church because the app has creeds, confessions, and catechisms that is suitable for all audiences including children. I have been using this application for my children for almost 3 years already. The simple Question and Answer is indeed a big help so that we could inculcate biblical truths to our children even in their young age.



This is Ate Tin. Her work is a personal tutor and she's a member of our church. I encouraged her that through tutoring she could really be involved in our CE ministry through teaching children about the bible. She has now a daily routine before they go to the assignments of her tutee. They pray, read the bible, sing songs about Jesus, and she explains the bible to her learners before studying. I find this encouraging.



These are one of the moments where children are already brought in the church for prayer, communion, and even bible study. I have encouraged the church to just bring in their children even if they still “ki-at” because after all even if they are acting the way they act as of now, they are also seeing, feeling, and observing the Gospel being practiced by us.

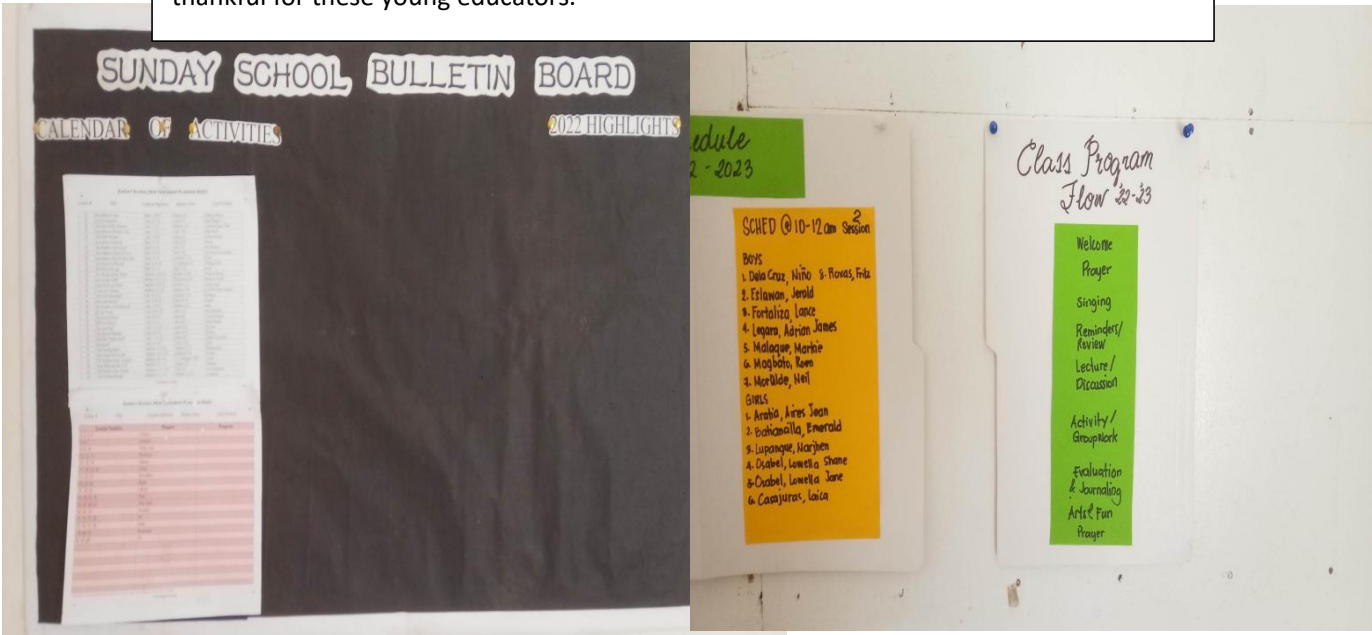



This is one of our young people who are also pursuing education. Rona has taught the bible to these children who are not church’ kids. This was conducted outside the church premises because this was an assignment to them by their school teacher. Even then, Rona chose to teach Jesus to these children as part of their literacy work for children.





On this portion are the effects of the curriculum planning team for our Children's lesson for Sunday school and their bible studies. They have helped the teachers in their schedules and lesson preparations to be Christ-centered and at the same time relevant for the children. They have also arranged even the flow of our classes in the church. So, thankful for these young educators.




 Student Signature

December 8, 2022
 Date

Date Received: ____ / ____ / ____
 Approved by: _____

