

# Kids NewsZONE

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## Being God's Agent of Love Through Storytelling

I got asked a lot about tips on storytelling to kids for faith development. When we tell stories to kids at church, we all realize that this could be the only period at church worship that children are more attentive and more engaged during divine service. Thus, we must seize this opportunity to related to kids as well as share God's love, His faithfulness, and plan of redemption at our level best.

First and foremost, we need to look unto Jesus. He was a master storyteller. People were found to gather around

Him to listen to His stories and teaching. His parables conveyed a simple message but powerful meaning. He utilized simple objects to convey more complex truths. They were also relevant to the audience, and in our case, young and tender aged listeners.

Jesus revealed the complex truths with something familiar and common to the audience such as Kingdom of God to the smallest of all seeds; Jesus talked about leaving 99 sheep to go search for the lost one; and He also showed us that the spirit of repentance is adored by God with the story of the tax collector. They are simple enough for a child to understand, but rich enough for a scholar to study repeatedly.

Below are some tips that you might find to be helpful:

**1. Know your audience:** If the children are small, keep the verbiage small. Children's attention spans generally last one minute





COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL  
TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

(PSALM 34:11, NKJV)



longer than their age. Accommodate the story according to the needs of the child. Are they un-churched kids? Tell a salvation story. Do they reside in the country? Relate stories to the farm, tractors, and animals. If they're city kids, what would their frame of reference be? Subways, apartment buildings, city parks. Are you speaking to an international audience? If so, use a translator, visuals, and pertinent cultural familiarities. To personalize the story, know the names of your students and use them.

**2. Engage your audience:** The best way to engage your audience is to know your story and to tell it confidently. Use different voices to portray different characters, adjust your own volume accordingly (speak loudly to portray emotion or whisper to encourage careful listening), and use voice inflection (don't speak in a monotone voice). It's also helpful to use eye contact, utilize crowd participation, and simple props or costumes to foster imagination. And last, but not least, have fun! Use humor, be whimsical, and throw in some silly every now and again!



**3. Love your audience:** Share the love of Christ with every story that you tell. Even if your story seemingly has nothing to do with Jesus, make it a point to end with Him. Charlie Wallace, Ministry to Children contributing writer, recently wrote an article on this subject, entitled, "The Gospel for Children: The Importance of Jesus in Every Kids Church Lesson." The most effective way to love your audience is to end with God's redemptive story, of sending His only Son to die on the cross for the sins of all mankind.

**4. Pray for your audience:** Before you tell your story and upon completion of it, pray for the students in your midst both personally and corporately. Pray that they would listen to your words, but that they would hear God's heart. Pray for their salvation. Pray for God to develop wisdom in these young leaders of tomorrow. Pray that they would be sensitive doers of the Word, not hearers only (James 1:22-25).

To conclude, we are here, not to impress children with entertaining stories but to imprint in their hearts with life-changing stories that could move them to be faithful to Jesus. As we tell stories at church, we are preaching God's love and seek opportunity to disciple our children. Let us be God's agent of love before children. May God empower us. Amen.

Adapted from: [MinistrytoChildren.com](http://MinistrytoChildren.com)

*Orathai Chureson*  
GC Children's Ministries Director

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## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

### ALIVE IN JESUS TRAINING

Cancun, Mexico

Date: August 11-15, 2023

This new Sabbath School Curriculum for children has been developed by Sabbath School and Personal Ministries of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. It seeks to nurture the spiritual life of our children and youth from the time they are babies until they are 18 years of age. We are given the advice to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Such training is no small task. The Alive in Jesus Bible curriculum seeks to equip and empower parents, caregivers, Sabbath School teachers, Sabbath School leaders, and others to model and foster a thriving relationship with Jesus and the children in their spheres of influence.

As Ellen White shares:

"Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Savior. By prayer, by the study of His Word, by faith in His abiding presence, the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go." (*THE MINISTRY OF HEALING* [MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.: PACIFIC PRESS PUB. ASSN., 1905], P. 182).

Alive in Jesus (AIJ) Children's Sabbath School training took place between August 11-15, 2023, in Cancun, Mexico. This training was organized for all division directors and representatives for the new children's sabbath school curriculum or Alive in Jesus in Cancun last Thursday. "It was a very enlightened experience," as Pastor Gerry Lopez, NAD associate CHM director, mentioned. While others expressed their joy in seeing how a new curriculum with beautiful illustration and faith-based content with biblical truths would be soon landed



in children's hands and how God's love and grace would be well-understood through Alive in Jesus. We praise God for the enriching and equipping experiences that we have just received, and GC and divisions' CHM leaders are getting ready in terms of planning and promoting it during the Annual Council making preparation for next year's full-blown training and equipping local leaders at the unions and conferences and missions. We pray for the financial resources for translation and reproduction of training materials as well as the mass production of Sabbath School lessons for children, making them available and accessible for all children. The launching for the following levels: Babies, Beginner, Kindergarten, Primary and teens will be done in 2025; while teens will be launched in 2026. We pray that God will provide and empower Sabbath School and Personal Ministries and Children's Ministries Department in passing on the faith legacy with passion and love for the mission to children through Alive in Jesus!



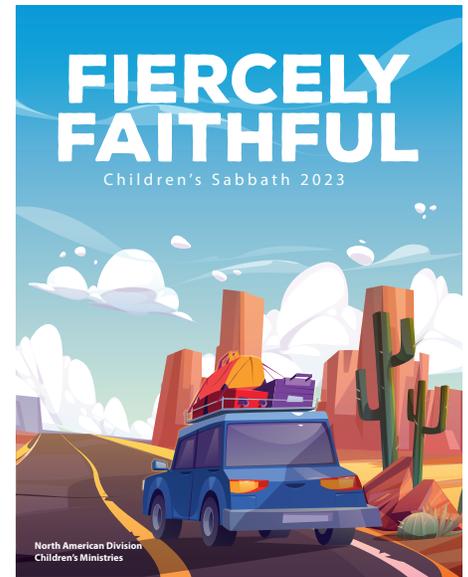
“ AND SAID, 'TRULY I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU ARE CONVERTED AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!' ”

(MATTHEW 18:3, NKJV)

## CHILDREN'S SABBATH

Date: July 22, 2023

Children's Sabbath is celebrated annually and world-wide. Adventist children and families around the globe celebrated together under the theme: Fiercely Faithful. The materials was created by Northern American Division's Children's Ministries. The date for Children's Sabbath this year set by the General Conference was on July 22, 2023. However, there are some divisions who do celebrate this special day based on their calendar events. If you have not celebrated this special day with your children at your local church, you may find the resources useful and available via this link: <https://www.childmin.org/childrens-sabbath-2023>



## BIBLE CAMP

Jakarta Conference

Union: West Indonesia Union Mission (WIUM)

Division: Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Adventist Children's Ministries at Jakarta Local Conference conducted Bible Camp for children between 24 - 26 of March 2023 at Pondok Kapilih Resort and Camping Ground, Bogor - West Java. Many children and families joined this camp meeting. Children were taught of God and inspired by His beautiful creation as they were surrounded by natures and immersed in natural settings. We thank the local conference leadership and are grateful for their wonderful support to children's ministries and parents who set aside their busy schedule and prioritized their children's experiential learning of God through Christian interaction and faith-based activities conducted during the Bible Camp.





## DISCIPLING CHILDREN THROUGH FAMILY FAITH

CHUM – Chinese Union Mission

Areas: Hong Kong, Macau, and China

For generations, Chinese parents have been known for their increased and intentional effort to disciple their children regardless of circumstances. While there is a restriction on with the political mandate that children and teens under the age of 18 years old be allowed to attend Church services, Chinese parents find other ways to disciple their children. They employ homeschool strategy that enables the possibility of faith and learning element being integrated into educational and experiential experiences of children in China. Parents’ Class is multifaceted learning of parents for family life as well as parenting children in faith and in providing effective education for kids. Thus, Chinese children learn experientially with the close guardianship and teaching of their parents and other adults. Besides, Sabbath School classes for children is hosted at houses. Parents also use small group teaching for the children’s sabbath school, and they also take turn inviting kids to their homes. When adults live out their faith, children experience them and follow them!



## SHARING THE LOVE

Adventist Possibility Ministries Special Sabbath

Mongolia Mission

Adventist Possibility Ministry

Adventist Possibility Ministries affirm that all are gifted, needed, and treasured; People go where they are welcomed but stay where they are valued; Value is inherent through creation and not determined by what a person can or cannot do; Each person is unique and has a God-given purpose; Included in that purpose is the call to enrich the lives of others which flows out of a sense of gratitude for what they themselves have received.

Each year Adventist Possibility Ministries celebrates a special Sabbath with the purpose to create awareness and to reach families with disabilities. ‘Sharing the Love’ was the theme that mobilized the MM Adventist Possibility Ministry and Volunteer Service to reach children with special needs. A total of 30 children’s families participated in the program. It is a blessing to report that 11 out of 30 families are SDA families and the 19 of them are non-Adventist families.



The children who attend the program were 2 to 15 years old. About 60 percent have Dyskinesia cerebral palsy (DCP) and rest have down syndrome and other disabilities. The organizers contacted each family asking for what they would like to receive as a gift for their children. Food mixer, special medicine, wet tissue, diapers, body lotion and soap, clothes and stuffed toys, art craft supplies etc were requested and prepared accordingly.

“Share the Love” service was held at Emmanuel Church for the Ulaanbaatar residents. Emmanuel church was chosen because it was accessible for the children with wheelchairs. During the program brochures of the book “The Final Hope” by Clifford Goldstein was distribute in the community.

“Today was a day of full of joy, laughter, and tears where my beautiful children enjoyed one of the most remarkable day in the year. Thank you for your kindness and love,” says one of the mothers who participated in the program.

Special thanks to NSD APM, Andrew Chia, Shurenbolor Khandsuren Chia and lovely son A. Our gratitude to Otgonbayar for his financial support and donations and for the Emmanuel church for opening its door to the neediest children



SEE THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES.  
FOR I TELL YOU THAT IN HEAVEN THEIR ANGELS ALWAYS SEE  
THE FACE OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.



(MATTHEW 18:10, NKJV)

and their family members. We are grateful for being able to host this program twice a year for these children through the generosity of many people.

It is important to keep these children with special needs in our daily prayers. Pray for them to listen to God's voice and accept Jesus as their savior and may one day they all will receive the gifts of new healthy bodies.

Because God's love is in us we were able to share His love with the most needed ones: the children with special needs. To God all the glory!



## REACHING GENERATION ALPHA SEMINAR

Singapore Conference  
Date: August 3-4, 2023

Those who are working with children and teens realize the changing nature of each generation. Understanding Generation Alpha has been our primary focus and concerns while conducting ministry. Generation Alpha are defined as those born from 2010-2024. This generation is now considered the fastest growing population that people have noticed in recent years. They are offspring of Generation Y, and often the younger siblings of Generation Z. More than 2.5 million are born globally every week. When they have all been born (2025) they will number almost 2 billion- the largest generation in the history of the world (Source: Mccrindle.com.au).

Singapore Conference's director of Adventist Children's Ministries, Debbie Saul-Chan organized events as supplemental empowerment toward better understanding of Generation Alpha on August 4 and 5 this year. The seminar was conducted in San Yu Adventist School to teachers and staffs on August 4 in the school campus; followed by another online seminar for



parents, children's leaders, and Sabbath School teachers who work with children at church.

On August 5, there is workshop for those who were interested in the issues of human sexuality and deep concern upon confusion among children and teens who are facing gender identity crisis owing to media influences and social advocacy that delib-

erately extracted faith out of the picture. The attendees were parents, grandparents, teachers, as well as interested members of churches in Singapore. The basis of presentations was recognizing biblical truth upon the issues of life and how Christian balanced parentings could be of greater benefits to children.

## TESTIMONY: NO ONE IS TOO YOUNG TO SERVE

West-Central Africa Division  
Southern Ghana Union Conference



Lordina is eight years old and has won the whole family of six for Christ. The story started last year when she attended church with an Adventist child at Kojokrom S.D.A. Church. Lordina had a warm reception by the children service teachers and other members, and she developed interest to worship at the church every Sabbath.

During an Indoor Evangelism organized by the Women's Ministries Department, children were also asked to invite non-Adventist friends and parents. Lordina decided to invite her family to the Evangelism, she began with her mother, since her father had travelled on a work schedule.

She persistently forced her mother to attend the program, and finally on the fifth day her mother attended with her. On the sixth-day appeal was made, and her mother gave her life to Jesus Christ through baptism.

A few days later the father returned home where he received news of the mother's recent found faith and baptism into the S.D.A. Church. The father was amazed about the new faith his household had found, because it was his old faith he had abandoned for over 20 years. Today, her whole family are Adventists.