

## Some Things Should Never Change

by Florence McCafferty

Methods may change, curriculum may change, but when you are teaching children about God some things should never change. If you don't agree with this statement, read a few teaching tips taken from a little book entitled *How to Conduct a Primary Department*. The book wasn't written in 2010—it was written in 1919!

*Read more . . .*

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- **The Best Method**

To find and use the method which best arouses love, reverence, and awe for the heavenly Father and develops the practice of right conduct toward others is the difficult but worthwhile task of the teacher. There is a method to meet every child's need.

- **The Wise Teacher**

The wise teacher makes the session interesting and impresses the lesson as deeply as possible having the children take an active part. . . . In other words, the wise teacher gives the children every possible opportunity for bodily movements, for using the hands, and for taking an active part in each session. But the teacher does not stop there. In addition, she offers the child a concrete suggestion for actually *doing during the week* some definite thing that the story suggested.

Ideal teachers come at least 30 minutes before time for the session to begin. They do every bit of the routine work before the children arrive.

When children arrive, teachers should be on duty at the door, with nothing on their minds—leaving themselves perfectly free to listen to childish stories that have been treasured up 'to tell teacher' all week.

- **The New Student**

Nearly always a timid new child will lose his self-consciousness if you direct your conversation, as you meet him, toward a picture or paper or object which you are giving him, instead of paralyzing him by centering your attention and that of the whole room (he feels) upon him.

- **Getting to Know the Children**

To really know children, one must watch them play when they do not know any grown-up is near; and one must play with them so frequently and in such a childlike

fashion that they forget that you are not one of them. It may not be possible for you to observe at play or to play with the children in your class, but your neighborhood children have the same interests and love the same things as your students. They will teach you the things you want to know.

- **Prayer Time**

Doubtless many children . . . will have not the slightest idea of what prayer is until you explain that it is just talking to our friend, our Father. Care should be taken that they do not get the idea that to pray is to coax for things that you will get if you coax long and hard enough.

Be reverent. The child will imitate your reverence or your lack of it. He will bow his head and worship, if you do. He will talk to the heavenly Father, if you do. And he likely will not, if you do not.

- **The Bible and Bible Verses**

Be sure the children know that their lesson stories and memory verses are from the Bible. Handle the Bible with care. It is God's book.

A guiding principle is that the memory verses be taught as part of situations, not as independent sentences or as parts of an alphabetical or some other memory scheme. The guiding purpose is to relate them to the children's everyday life, to project them into his daily experience.

- **Standards to Strive For**

1. Love, trust, reverence, and obedience to God the Father and Jesus Christ the Savior.
2. Recognition of the heavenly Father in daily life.
3. Love for God through worship.
4. Love and reverence for God's book, God's day, and God's house.
5. Increasing power to act in response to ever-enlarging ideas of what is right and desirable.
6. Increasing spirit of obedience and helpfulness.
7. Increasing power to give love and forget self.

- **The Reason for Sunday School**

The carrying of the Bible stories and verses over into daily life is the reason for having Sunday school. Merely knowing the Bible stories and verses has educational value; making them a vital part of our actions and attitude in our play life, our treatment of our friends, and our appreciation of daily food, clothes, health, and pleasure gives them spiritual value.