

Some Things Never Change

Methods may change, curriculum may change, but some things about teaching children about God should never change! If you don't think that's true, read the following taken from a little book entitled *How to Conduct a Primary Department*, written in 1919!

The Best Methods

"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 movement, 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 things which 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."

The New Pupil

"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."

The Prayer Time

"Doubtless many children of the department 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."

"In addition to the general prayers of gratitude for home and friends, for God's day, God's Book and God's house, there should be frequent prayers for the children of specific mission fields to whom the boys and girls are sending the story of Jesus by means of gifts of money."

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The Importance of Birthdays

“Birthdays are events of tremendous importance in the lives of all children. The birthday children should be recognized by allowing them all sorts of special privileges.”

The Bible and Bible Verses

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

“The guiding principle is that the memory verses be taught as parts 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 their daily experiences.”

The Reason for Sunday School

“This carrying of the Bible stories and verses over into the daily life is the reason for having Sunday school. Merely knowing 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, our appreciation of daily food, clothes, health and pleasure, gives them religious value.”

Excerpted from *How to Conduct a Primary Department* by Florence McCafferty, Standard Publishing, 1919.