



Lively Stones

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Holding forth the word of life

Issue 4, 2011

10 April 2011

Young Teens Department Promotional Sunday

The Young Teens Sunday School gives biblical instruction to those ages 13 to 16 years old. Ministering to young teens is not an easy task - it takes much dedication and ingenuity to reach out to them and make the Bible understandable and applicable to them. Knowing that many of the teens who attend have grown up in church, the instruction must not only reinforce what has been learned in their childhood through reminders and re-instruction, but it must be applied with fresh insights with contemporary examples. This helps the Bible student to realize that the Bible is a living book that is most relevant to them in their everyday life - that it is the Word of God in practice and not just in study.

Apart from the formal Sunday school lessons, we hope to share God's involvement in our lives by relating our daily experiences with the teens. It is our prayer that we, who have experienced how God has been a very present help and guide in our lives, can pass this onto the Sunday school class. By God's grace, we hope that our teens can live each day with inner peace and joy that is independent of circumstances, knowing that God, their senior partner, journeys with them. And it is our prayer that with the influence of the Sunday school, the teens may develop a love for God's Word.

For the year 2011, The Sec 1 to 4 classes are studying various bible lessons from both the New Testament and Old Testament. We pray that the lessons learnt would direct our students to Christ, and that they will love the Lord and obey Him. And we hope the teens will learn,

understand and connect the truths they have learned into their personal life. We also pray that the Lord would give the teachers opportunity to minister to the parents of the teens as well, and to encourage them in their family life - that Christ should be spoken of often in these formative years, lest their children be given to the devil even though they were dedicated to Christ.

Each first Sunday of the month, we gather together as a department to have 'Open Sunday'. We will have a time of singspiration and a message in our 'Open Sunday'. This year the 'Open Sunday' is a combined effort with the Church's Youth Ministry. The theme for our 2011 Open Sunday is "In this world-According to God's design". In this theme, we will be studying the 6th chapter of the book of Ephesians. And we hope the 10 messages planned will exhort the teens to be strong in the Lord and the power in His might. The open Sunday is held at the Chinese Service Hall at the back of the Church Sanctuary.

If you are between 13 to 16 yrs old or a parent, whose teenage child is not attending any Sunday School Class, we invite you to join us every Sunday from 9.30am to 10.30am. Just drop by any of the classes and we will be there to welcome you! Alternatively, you may contact Shao Sheng at hengss@lifebpc.com to find out more about the Young Teens Sunday School.

Heng Shao Sheng
Superintendent, Young Teens Department

Class	Sec 1 Boys	Sec 2 Boys	Sec 3 Boys	Sec 4 Boys
Theme	Lessons from Christ in New Testaments	Lessons from Old Testaments Portraits	Lessons from Early Church New Testaments	Themes from Old Testaments
Beulah Centre Level 2 & 4	Room 2-7	Room 2-3	Room 2-5	Room 4-1
Teachers	Jeffrey Chan Kwong Ann	Michael Ong Soon Hui	Sin Wei David Tan	Poon Chin Mark Chen

Class	Sec 1 Girls	Sec 2 Girls	Sec 3 Girls	Sec 4 Girls
Theme	Lessons from Christ in New Testaments	Lessons from Old Testaments Portraits	Lessons from Early Church New Testaments	Themes from Old Testaments
Beulah Centre Level 2 & 4	Room 2-8	Room 2-4	Room 2-6	Room 4-1
Teachers	Choy Foong Lynette/Hui Miin	Mei Li Tan Wan Xian	Karen Lim Marianne	Sharon Seow Rachel Phang

On the following two pages, we are going to read the testimonies of last year's (2010) Sec 4 girls who went through a year's study "Understanding Biblical Doctrines". You will read of their ignorance of certain doctrines before they embarked on their study on this subject. By God's grace, the past year has been a very fruitful one for them. They came away having an in depth knowledge of God and His doctrines and more appreciation of what the Christian faith means.

Charmaine Low

Attending Sunday school this year for me has been an eye-opener in many ways. As many of us have grown up in church, we more often think that we are very familiar with biblical truths and events. However, after going through an entire book pertaining to Christian doctrines with my Sunday school class, I have gained a better understanding of God's nature and doctrines that I once only understood at a superficial level as a young Christian. For instance, when we covered the lesson on God's plan for salvation, I learnt that it is the Holy Spirit

It is of utmost importance that we do not be satisfied with a superficial understanding of God's Word because this would hinder our growth as Christians and also our knowledge of God.

who first works in the heart of a non-believer before the non-believer is converted. Hence, even for ourselves, we must acknowledge the fact that it was the Holy Spirit who enabled us to believe and to be saved, and not our own faith. The lessons also helped me to realize the true purpose of the Lord's Supper – which is not merely to help us remember Christ's death and condescension but is also a means of grace, whereby we as believers can grow in our faith by partaking of it. It is of utmost importance that we do not be satisfied with a superficial understanding of God's Word because this

would hinder our growth as Christians and also our knowledge of God. Hence, I thank God for allowing me to go through Sunday school this year and helping me to learn His doctrines at a deeper level.

Deborah Koh

This year, I have learnt a lot every Sunday from 9.30am to 10:45am. While growing up in a church with sound doctrines, I always wondered why ours had to be the right one, or why other doctrines were so different. I've always asked others about this but the answers were always short and brief, thus not helping me much with my queries.

This year, I had a whole year to learn about all the doctrines I was confused about. The teachers always answered my questions clearly and I am now more knowledgeable about my faith. Learning more about doctrines has helped me understand many things of which I was confused with for years.

Edelweiss Woon

In Sunday school, I was taught the different doctrines and how they were derived from the Bible. Through these 13 chapters from the workbook, "Understanding Biblical Doctrine", I managed to gain better understanding on certain areas like salvation (e.g.

TULIP) and the End Times (e.g. the different views of the second coming of Christ), which I previously had doubts on. The Sunday school teachers also conducted "Praying and Sharing" sessions where we get to share our problems and pray for one another. It was beneficial to me as I was taking my O levels this year and with these sessions, I was able to voice out my troubles and at the same time get to understand what my other friends are going through. I have really benefited a lot from Sunday school.

Evelyn Teo

I have learnt many things from the Sunday school lessons. The workbook that we are using, Understanding Biblical Doctrine, is really useful for my learning as it covers many different kinds of topics which are important for Christians to know and understand. Topics like 'The nature of God' and 'The Christian Life' are two examples. My favourite topic is The Holy Sacrament. After learning more on this topic, I was able to understand more about the significance of the sacrament and what terms like covenant of grace and new testament mean. Teacher Sharon was very kind to email me and explain to me some of the things which I don't understand regarding the lessons. The teachers were all very helpful in planning the lessons for us every week. Prayer and sharing time also allowed us to speak up and share about things that are happening in our lives. I thank God for the teachers and the Sunday school lessons that helped me in my spiritual life.

Jaime Lau

Being able to attend Sunday school this year has really been a blessing for me, and I thank God for the many lessons learnt. Through the course of this year's Sunday school, the lessons taught about the many topics, salvation in particular, have really benefited me as I now have a much clearer understanding of these issues. This will in turn help me to answer questions which my non-Christian friends may have when I share the gospel with them. This year's focus on the details of biblical doctrine also taught me the importance of comprehending God's word fully, and to not be satisfied with mere superficial understanding, so as to be able to have continual growth in knowledge and understanding of Him.

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Joanna Goh

This year in Sunday school, I have learnt more about the Westminster confession of faith in a thorough manner which has allowed me to clear doubts about different doctrines. The doctrines we cover may seem to be easy and we think we know all about them. But from the workbook we use and with the teacher's guidance, we learnt that it is not as simple as it is. For example, from the chapter on "The Nature of God", we learn in depth who God really is. We know God much better through the lessons.

Mabelle Chua

This year, my class covered the book "Understanding Biblical Doctrine – a workbook in Theology" in Sunday school. It was very interesting as I learnt more about the Christian faith and what the church's standing and views on certain topics. It is not as simple as I thought it would be but I think I have gained much from these lessons.

Rosalyn Tan

Sunday school has benefited me in various aspects. The weekly lessons as well as the materials used provided an in depth and comprehensive study of fundamental concepts (E.g. Salvation, the church, the sacraments etc.). This has allowed me to clarify a number of doubts and misconceptions that I had previously. Occasionally, we will also have sharing sessions. This is where I realised that others also share similar problems as mine in their school life. From there we help each other to come up with practical Godly solutions as well as pray for each other.

Furthermore, our teachers make an effort to keep in touch with us during the week to encourage us and lend us a listening ear. In addition, they will constantly remind us to put God first in our lives and not chase after materialistic things which will not last forever. I thank God for such a wonderful Sunday school class and hope that the lessons learnt will continue to help me grow spiritually in the long run.

Sherlin Toh

Coming from a non-Christian family, Sunday school [SS] has always been an important place where I can ask all my questions and doubts. This year is no different. By God's grace and mercy, studying the book 'Understanding Biblical Doctrine' has answered many of the questions that I think about at night (which I am afraid to ask sometimes). One interesting example is about the Lord's Supper. I remember vividly that before I came to church, I used to wonder what the Lord's Supper was about. Do people eat it because they were hungry? As I came more often, I knew that it was something that Christians take and prior to that, they had to repent and confess their sins. This year, through SS, I learnt that it is a sign and seal. It is a means of grace and spiritual strength. It made me understand the importance of the Lord's Supper more thoroughly.

With the hectic year due to major examinations, prayer and sharing during SS has been helpful. The prayer for one another during the papers has been most comforting. In conclusion, SS has helped me grown wiser in God's word and I look forward to next year's SS.

OPEN SUNDAY PROGRAMME 2011

THEME: In this World - According to God's Design.

Date	Title	Speaker	Synopsis / Remarks
6 th Feb	Children and Parents – Our responsibilities to God and each other.	Hock Chin	Eph 6:1-4, the goal of this message is to introduce the doctrine of the covenant family so that the teens will understand the biblical pattern of the Christian home.
6 th Mar	Submission to authority	Eld Lim TC	Eph 6:5-8, to teach that the worldly authorities are still subject to God and we should likewise subject to them in Christ as He is the sovereign Lord of the universe.
3 rd Apr	The Armour of God - Introduction	Mark Chen	Eph 6:10-13, recognising that the world is against the Christians, we are encouraged to put on the armour of God.
1 st May	Breastplate of Righteousness	Hock Chin	Eph 6:14, the role of righteousness and how it protects the Christians.
5 th Jun	The Gospel of Peace	Eld Sherman Ong	Eph 6:15, explain what the Gospel is and its role in our lives. How it gives purpose and peace to the world.
3 th Jul	Shield Of Faith	TBC	Eph 6:16, the role of faith as a shield to saved us from the fiery darts of the wicked.
7 th Aug	Helmet of Salvation	Mark Chen	Eph 6:17a, teach what is salvation and why it covers the head. Here is the practical application of the Gospel.
4 th Sept	The Sword of the Spirit	TBC	Eph 6:17b, the only offensive weapon of the Christian armour. What is it and how to master and use it.
2 nd Oct	Prayer	Rev Quek KK	Eph 6:18, learn how to pray in the Spirit and how it can changed the way we care for one another.
6 th Nov	Ambassador For Christ	TBC	Eph 6:20, most Christians has forgotten this and hence the great commission.

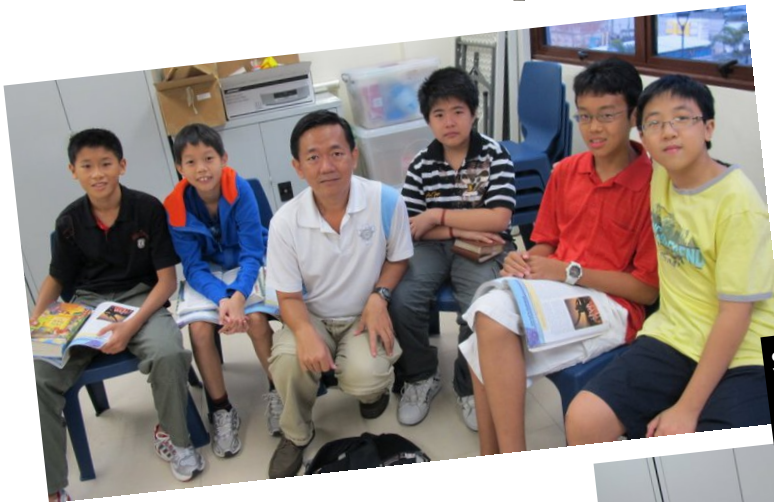
Young



Sec 2 girls with teachers Mei Li and Wan Xian



Sec 1 girls with teachers Choy Foong, Hui Miin and Lynette



Sec 1 boys with teachers Kwong Ann and Jeffrey



Teens

Sec 4 girls and boys with teachers Sharon, Rachel, Poon Chin, Mark



Classes

Sec 2 boys with teachers Michael and Soo Hui



Sec 3 boys with teachers Sin Wei and David (not in picture)



Sec 3 girls with teachers Karen and Marianne



Win Them to God

A Sunday school teacher recently asked how to get the teens to go to LTF. We had a very fruitful discussion and it gave me the inspiration for this article. The concerned teacher and I shared something very dear and that was our care and concern for the teens because we did not want to lose them to the world. This article hopes to answer this question of how not to lose them and provide some practical biblical solutions that we should follow.

The first thing we need to do is define what it meant by "losing them to the world". Typically, parents would consider a teen that is well behaved, mature, socially apt, obedient to parents and taking their studies seriously as the definition. While I agree that these are right traits to have, I think it is an insufficient definition when seen from the light of scripture. In the Bible, to lose someone to the world is to lose him to satan. Such people enjoy been in the realm of satan's dominion. This is the same as saying that the teen is under the dominion of sin and ungodliness; holiness is neither their desires nor concerns. According to God, they would be considered as in bondage to unrighteousness and sin.

This understanding forces us to realize those attributes we hope to see in the previous paragraph are actually the outflow from a life saved from sin and sanctified in Christ. You shall know them by their fruits. The Lord Jesus in Matt 7:16-20 warn us against false prophets and to judge them based on their fruits. Likewise, we should be able to discern that the true nature will eventually show itself. The real issue before us is whether our teens are saved from the bondage of sin and under the wrath of God. Are they born again and committed to Christ? This is a great issue before the Christian family and the church regarding their children. Parents, the Sunday school, the different youth ministries and members of the body of Christ need to understand this and make this problem one of their primary purpose to overcome. Such a life is pleasing to God because we will be obeying His command in Matt 28:18-20.

With the definition set, let's see what we can do.

The Parents

Ps 78:4 reminds parents to declare the glorious deeds of the Lord, His might and wonders. This verse tells us to show God in all His fullness and especially His attributes of goodness, faithfulness and mercy on a day to day basis to our children. They need to learn from us that God is real even

when we do not see Him. After awhile, their curiosity will make them ask where God is and that question of faith is our opportunity to tell them why and what we believe. How and what we tell and show them about our relationship with God is important. We need to start from Christ's death on the cross for our sins and how we were led to repentance and how we are changed. They will then unconsciously double check that against what we say. It's more than telling them what God said. It is about living our lives in God by faith and in obedience. As we grow in Christ likeness, they will observe God at "work" and start to connect what we teach from the bible to who God is. The gospel message and all the full council of God will then start to make sense to them just like in Neh 8:8.

The Church – Sunday School / Fellowship / -

Needs to build on the parents efforts at home and not take over their rightful roles as spiritual leaders of their homes. There will be times the church becomes surrogate spiritual parents to the teens but this must be a temporary solution that is done in conjunction with the helping the parents. The Christian parents must do their part and the church need to support them in their spiritual struggles. The church here refers to the children of God that make up body of Christ and not just the pastors, pastoral team, ministries and Session. All the members of the body of Christ are called to bear one another's burden and learn to care for each other. Those working with the teens, Sunday school teachers, cell groups leaders and fellowship office bearer need to genuinely care for the teens spiritual well-being by relating well with them. There should be dialogues on the word of God for the purpose of reproof, correction and training in righteousness. Eventually, we all need to pray together and for each other. Teach the teens to pray for you and let them know when God answered their prayers.

Finally, we must also look after those who are saved and has exhibited the fruit of the Holy Spirit by helping them to love God's word and to master it. Work with them to enjoy reading, studying and memorizing it. Let's remember God's promises in Isaiah & Roman:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isa 55:11)
So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom 10:17)

Joel Seah