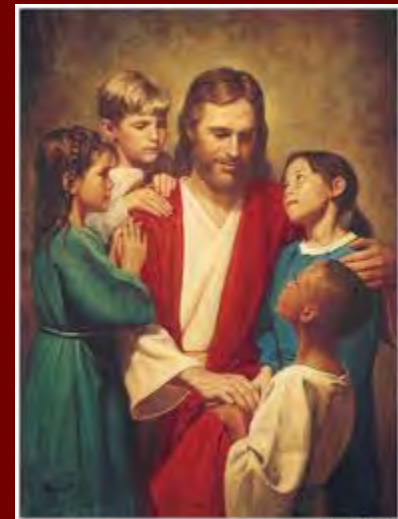


Serving Sunday School Kids Outside of the Church

July 9, 2017

Introduction

- Goal in SS service: bring kids closer to the Lord Christ, to develop a lifelong deep/intimate relationship with our Lord.



- However,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Cannot be achieved: 1 hr. per week in SS
- Must also serve them outside of Church

Methods

- Phone calls at home



- Visitations



- Retreats



- Outings and other activities



Phone Calls: Always first Step

Calling kids at home - Great way of initiating a relationship with them

- If kid is absent, call at home to check up
- Let them know you missed them and would like to see them
- Kudos to Justina
- I have to:



I want to:



■ Ideas to initiate relationship on the phone

- School: for kids from 1st - 9th grade, this topic will be most dominant
- Work (10th grade and above)
- (most import line in your life)
- Exciting things in their life
Ex: Getting Driver's License



- starting college (staying home/dorm)
- honors and achievements,
- hobbies and school activities, etc...)

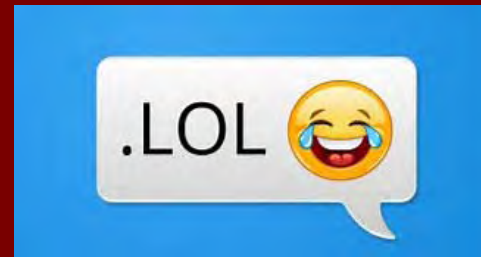
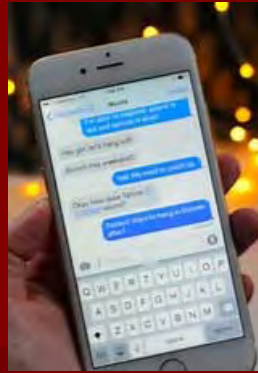


- Social things - how they spend free time, trips, vacations, relatives that they have visited or seen recently, etc...
- Special Recognition



Do Not's

a. Text:
I tell a joke



I get LOL

The sheep knows the Shepherd
by his voice (his voice not his text)



b. Let them feel guilty for not coming
to church. Avoid Lecturing and Scolding

c. Start call by "come to church"

d. Phone call too short



- Make child feel cared for; show interest
- At least a short conversation
- End phone call on a positive note, (miss them/see them soon)
- Always find a way to reach out to the kid
(if he/she does not have a phone or does not answer, call the parents and ask to speak to them)

■ Visitations:

Probably the most important and deepest element of Sunday School service.

Foundational element of one-on-one service to children (they never forget it)
(story of Abouna visiting me)



The Nabil way (non-fasting days/dinner)



- Goal is to visit each child in the class once per year
- Let child know that you want to visit and arrange visitations with parents early
- This usually makes parents/child excited and gives them time to be prepared.



Visiting Ben



On a Serious Note:

Try to be aware of any family issues
(separated/hardships/tragedy/etc.)

Ask Abouna for advice with special
circumstances

- Tips for Visitations:
- Sit with the child and his/her parents together, or if the child requests, sit alone with the child
- Casual conversations about work, school, hobbies/interest/talents/etc...
- Make child and family feel very relaxed

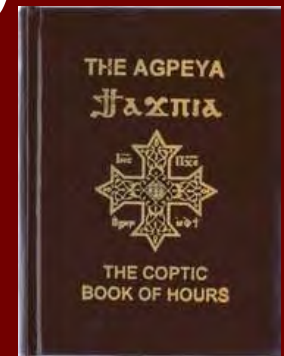


Goal to become the child's friend. Speak face to face as a friend. We read in the Holy Bible: **“God spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend” (Exodus 33:11)**

- Develop type of friendship with child so they seek your mentorship/guidance in life
- Talk on the child's level, never make them feel inferior, that you are more sophisticated/knowledgeable than them



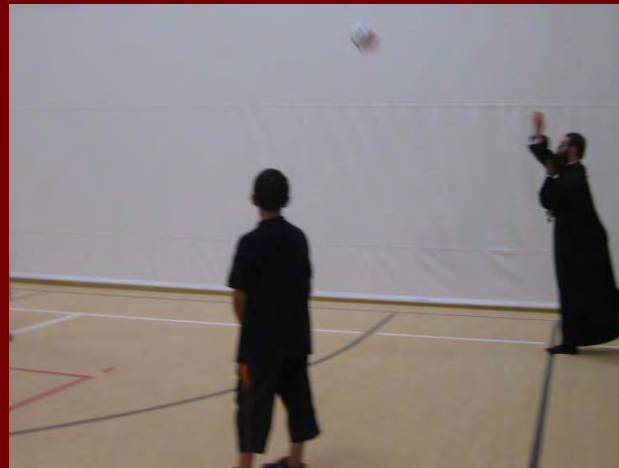
- After initial casual conversation, turn to spiritual topics
 - Prayer/reading Bible/attending church/taking communion/confession/attending Sunday School
- Bring a spiritual gift for child
 - Bible, Icon, Agpeya, etc...
- Read a small passage from the Bible and briefly discuss it
- End the visitation with prayer



- Retreats:
- Vital in spiritual upbringing of children
- Often fondest memories for a child
- Perhaps deepest impact on a child's life
- Goal to have at least two retreats a year



- Make retreats creative by having lessons as well as fun activities
- Get to know kids by participating in the activities. Spend time/talk with them.



- Be a true role model
- Let kids enjoy some flexibility as long as within the retreat rules

■ Outings:



- Include taking your Sunday School kids to a park, picnic, museum, zoo, etc...
- Try and get to know them and socialize with them

- Outings:
- Take an interest in their life. Be casual and relaxed. Not every conversation needs to be centered or focused on Church.
- Find out the hobbies and interests of the child, what their talents are, etc...



What will your students remember about you?

What do you remember about your Sunday School teacher when you were their age????

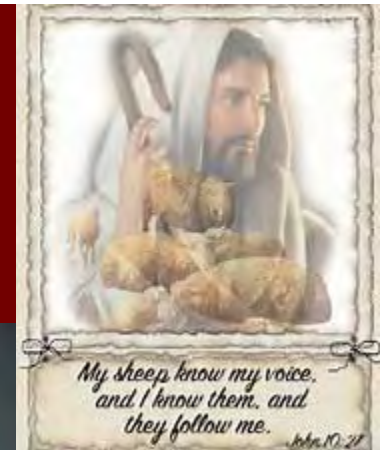
Not your lessons

They will remember the phone calls/visitations/retreats/outings you had with them and the friendship

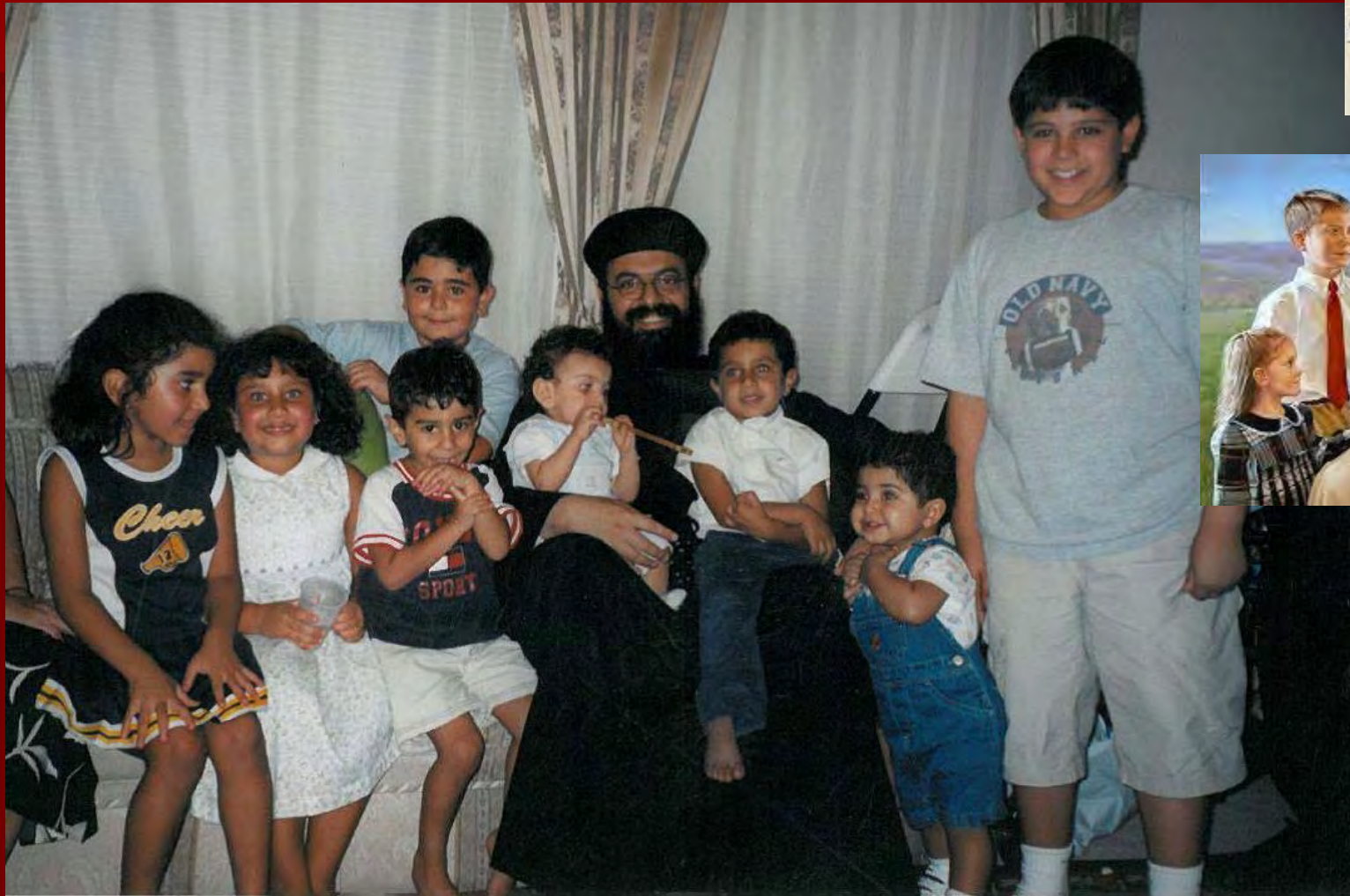








*My sheep know my voice,
and I know them, and
they follow me.* John 10:27









- Conclusion
- Developing a relationship with your SS kids, you become a trusted friend, mentor, and counselor
- Always represent the Lord Christ outside Church for kids to see. Always make any phone call, visitation, or outing a spiritual one by your conduct, attitude, and speech.
- Always seek to glorify God in your service and never lose focus of the mission of bringing the kids closer to Jesus Christ.
- And most important of all.....
- **Pray for all your Sunday School kids**