

Workshop outline by Aella Gage

Teaching God's Living Word to Children

#1 – A biblical Theology of God as Shepherd and God's 'under-shepherds'

What is the heartbeat of children's ministry in our local churches?

Is it primarily about entertainment, childminding for the adult congregation, education, relationship building, none of these?

With many different emphases and with much confusion in the church today this 1st workshop will establish a Biblical under girding for our ministry among children in the local church.

This is a vital foundational workshop for all those who seek to be shaped by Biblically principles in children's ministry, rather than shaped by pure pragmatism.

#2 – Principles for interpreting Biblical narrative: *Exegesis*

As a Bible teacher, how do I faithfully interpret the Bible?

This is a crucial question for those responsible for teaching the young. James reminds us that *'not everyone should presume to be teachers....because we who teach will be judged more strictly.'* This is a salutary reminder to all who teach, not only those who preach to an adult congregation.

In this 2nd workshop we will explore the tools Scripture gives us for interpreting Scripture and in particular in interpreting Bible stories: narrative. Our time will include both instruction and practical group work where we will look at interpreting a narrative text, Exodus 17:1-7.

#3 – Principles for drawing implications from Biblical narrative: *Hermeneutics*

C.S. Lewis once described God as 'the transcendental interferer'! As a Bible teacher, how do I faithfully apply the eternal truths of God so that children are challenged and changed by His Word?

One of the great problems with much Bible teaching with children is either the failure to apply the teaching at all or to misapply the teaching. The consequences are seen in many adults who have grown up either thinking the Bible is full of irrelevant stories or disillusioned because what they were taught wasn't what God ever really said or promised in His Word.

In this 3rd workshop we will look together at Biblical principles for understanding and teaching the implications of God's Word. This is key part for any Bible teacher who is concerned that children meet the Living God in His Living Word. This workshop will include both instruction and practical group work on applying Exodus 17:1-7.

#4 – Principles for structuring and communicating a teaching session:
Homiletics

A great test of clear communication is what a child says when asked by their parent, 'So, what did you learn today in Sunday School?! *How do I put together a teaching session so that children don't leave confused, but clear on what God has said?*

After all the hard work we have done on the passage, yet one challenge remains, humanly speaking! And that is to teach God's Word in a way that means the children can understand you!

Part of this requires understanding the age we are teaching, partly in looking at the structure of our teaching, and partly in the language we use. In this 4th and final workshop we will look at tried and tested principles on putting together a teaching session that engages the children and teaches the point effectively. This workshop will include both instruction and practical group work which will include the structuring of a 5 minute talk for children on Exodus 17:1-7