

Sunday School

The fall is a time of new beginnings for many things in television, sports, and civic groups. It is also a re-beginning for Sunday School, a time of teaching and learning for Christians. What happens in Sunday School must never stay in Sunday school!

For dedicated Sunday School teachers who don't know what kind of impact they may be having, we must trust God to use us to share Christ with people who will draw upon their faith and perhaps be a former or shaper of the world in the future.

Edward Kimball lived over a hundred years ago. He was a Sunday school teacher in Boston, where a young teenager became part of his class. The young man was a country boy. He didn't know the ways of the city or of the church. But, he came to Kimball's Sunday school class.

When the teen first came to his class, Edward Kimball handed him a Bible. When Mr. Kimball said, "Turn to the Gospel of John," the country boy didn't know how to find the Gospel of John. Edward Kimball recognized what was happening, and while the other boys were snickering, he opened the Bible to the Gospel of John and handed it back. When he asked the boys to read, the country boy fumbled as he read.

Edward Kimball wasn't discouraged; he had perspective, and saw possibilities in the boy. Kimball worked with him, and after some months he went down to the store where the boy was working, went into the back room where he was stacking boxes, and led young Dwight to Jesus Christ. That was the beginning of the ministry of Dwight L. Moody, this continent's greatest evangelist during the last century.

We teach and teach, and hope they get it right. But history is full of hilarious moments when kids just don't quite get it. Maybe a book of those funny times should be published.

A Sunday school teacher was teaching on the classic of Lot from the city being destroyed for its sin.

Sunday school Teacher: "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt."

Little boy: "What happened to the flea?"

Or the day the children were asked about the release of God's people from 500 years of slavery.

The Sunday school teacher was reviewing a lesson. "Who led the children of Israel out of Egypt?" she asked the class.

There was no answer, but a little boy in the back row raised his hand.

"Do you know, Jimmy?" the teacher asked.

"It wasn't me;" Jimmy said timidly. "We just moved here last week. We're from Missouri."

So no matter where we are from, we must not deprive us or our children from hearing the stories of God and his people. Delving into the pages of the Holy Bible, we learn on different levels at each stage of our lives. We learn about the wonderful stories of creation, or of Jesus' arrival on earth at Bethlehem as a child. Later we learn what to believe about those moments. Still later we learn what principles of God are taught in these same scriptural moments and how then we must live.

We can get reading, writing, and the like from regular school, but the foundations of faith must come from Sunday School moments, or we may never find it. People can come to faith having never been to church or Sunday school before, but there is no substitute for a rich knowledge of the basics of faith which can then come to life. Imagine reading the Bible for the first time as an adult, and think of all the years before when God could have spoken.

What we don't want is for our kids to grow up and not know Christ because we never bothered to take them to Sunday School. What God does not want is not to be able to speak to us in a Bible study or Sunday school class through the bible, the conversation among God's people, and the inspiration made possible by God's Holy Spirit when His people gather to learn of Him.

John D. Rockefeller, a very rich man back when wealth was still measured in millions, said, "This Sunday School has been of help to me, greater perhaps than any other force in my Christian life, and I can ask no better things for you than that you, and all that shall come after you in this great band of workers for Christ, shall receive the same measure of blessedness which I have been permitted to have."

So by all means, dear reader; teach, go to, experience the wonder of God in Sunday School. Make it possible for those you love. For God is waiting to tell of heaven, and change our lives right now.