

From the Pastor

Children are God's precious gift to the home. Jesus told us that true salvation requires the faith of a child (Matt. 18:3).

Our ministry to children is burdened with the task of passing to the generations that follow us the faith once delivered to the saints.

faith on to the next generation. The segregation of the generations is a spiritual danger that we want our children's ministry to have no part in fostering. The more we involve parents and grandparents in the instruction that our children's ministry gives to children, the more effective it will be passing the faith on to them.

Age-appropriate instruction (Prov. 22:6).

J. Barton Payne translates this verse, "Train up a child according to his way [at his level], and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I agree with that translation and interpretation. We teach reading to six-year-olds differently than we do to high-school children. We do the same with math. We do this because we want them to be good readers and sound mathematicians. We want our children to be sound in the faith, and it is biblical to use age-appropriate graded instruction to reach this goal. Teaching kids at their own level is a biblically important part of passing the faith once delivered to the saints on to the next generation in a way that will not be easily forgotten.

Pray for our children's ministry at NBBC.

Our Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Morning Worship Service

**6:00 pm Evening Assembly
(an Old Fashioned Hymn Sing is held at this time on the last Sunday of each month)**

Tuesday:

6:00 am Men's Morning Prayer

Wednesday:

7:00 pm Prayer Meeting for all ages

9:00 am Ladies Bible Study (2nd and 4th weeks of the month)

A nursery is provided at all services.

Please visit our website for additional information and other ongoing ministries.

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What the Bible
Teaches About:

Children's Ministry



New Boston Baptist Church

What the Bible teaches about Children's Ministry.

First, let me mention some goals from the Scripture for our children's ministry.

Making disciples (Matt. 28:19-20). It is our desire to obey the commission of our Lord to make disciples of the nations. He tells us that we accomplish this through the ordinance of baptism and through the faithful teaching of all the things He has commanded us. One of the goals of children's ministry is to make disciples who are baptized and well-taught.

Passing the faith on to the next generation (2 Tim. 3:14-17). The equipping of Timothy as the man of God thoroughly furnished unto every good work began in his childhood, the time of his life when he learned the sacred writings that are able to make us wise unto salvation. Timothy was to continue in those things that he had learned. We know from earlier in the book that much of Timothy's learning came from his grandmother and mother at home. Children's ministry must encourage home instruction, never hinder it. But the teaching ministry of the church in addition to the home has an important role to play in the instruction of our children in the faith. Portions of Paul's epistles are addressed directly to children. We not only have instruction that tells us, "Parents, teach your children to obey," but also instruction that tells us, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right" (Eph. 6:1). That is instruction that comes directly from the church to the children of the church.

Now let me explain some guiding principles for our children's ministry here at New Boston Baptist Church, which we believe to be biblically important to reaching these goals.

Pastoral oversight (Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11; Heb. 13:17). The Scripture teaches that pastors are uniquely responsible for the teaching ministry of the local church. When a pastor gives an account before the Lord some day, the Lord will ask him for an accounting of a church's children's ministry that no others in that church will be required to give. It is the pastors' responsibility to invite teachers to teach and to provide direction on what is to be taught. The accounting that pastors will give on that day will ask whether teachers and curriculum faithfully fulfilled the reason God gives a church pastor-teachers as outlined by Paul in passages like Eph. 4:11-13, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Appreciation for the gift of teaching in the body of Christ (Rom. 12:3-8). Paul begins with this chapter of the book of Romans to deal with the specifics of practical Christian living. It all begins with a body fully surrendered to the Lord as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God and not conformed to this world (Rom. 12:1-2). In the next paragraph, Paul speaks about the importance of the giftedness of the body of Christ and the importance of humility in regard to both the exercise of those gifts and the appreciation of the gifts of others. He then lists many of these gifts. Teaching is one of these. Others include prophesying (musical giftedness is included here), serving, exhorting, giving, leading, and showing mercy. The gift of teaching is clearly something that exists in the body beyond the office of the pastor-teacher. Just like all of the other gifts, this giftedness of believers must be appreciated as a gift of God's grace to the church. We must want our families to be exposed to all the giftedness of the members of the local church, teaching included, so that we can please the Lord. This is an important part of keeping hypocrisy out of our love for one another (v. 9).

Exercising the gift of teaching involves a stricter judgment (Jam. 3:1-18). The word *masters* at the

beginning of this chapter is the Greek word *didaskalos*, meaning *teacher*, the same word translated *teachers* in Heb. 5:12. Rather than encouraging people to volunteer to teach, James discourages believers from this responsibility on the grounds that it involves greater condemnation (or stricter judgment). He goes on to speak of the danger of the tongue, and then he concludes the chapter with a discussion of the peaceable and gentle wisdom from above. Teachers must be carefully chosen. They are held to a higher standard by God, much like the pastor and the deacon. They must have their tongues under the control of God's Spirit and exhibit the pure gentleness and peaceable, humble spirit of the wisdom that is from above.

Opportunities to teach involve some prerequisites (Heb. 5:11-14). The author of Hebrews would like to discuss Melchizedek with his readers, but he cannot because they are dull of hearing. He then says that although it was time that they ought to be ready to teach, they still had a need to learn the first principles of the faith. I have called these prerequisites for the opportunity to teach. First, a teacher must be saved, baptized, and a member of our local church. These are some of the basics of Christianity. Second, a teacher must have a track record that has demonstrated a hungry appetite for strong meat. They are at the gatherings of our assembly, Sunday School, Sunday services, Wednesday prayer time, to learn more of the Word of God that they might teach others what they have learned. Finally, they must have a spiritual sensitivity for the difference between good and evil, right and wrong, the love of the world and the love of the Father, modesty and immodesty, godly entertainment and ungodly entertainment. Their spiritual hearing is not dull.

Connected generations (Deut. 4:9). Our children's ministry must recognize, encourage, and strengthen the role of the parent in passing the