

Their leadership came to the surface even in the naming of this Grade 5 and 6 group. The S.W.A.T. Team believes in the importance of "Service With Active Training." This discipleship ministry is designed to prepare boys and girls for ministry. They come together for a devotional time and then work on skills that prepare them for a wide array of ministry within the children's program. They eagerly develop and assume responsibilities for all preschool programs which include the nursery, Family Bible School, children's church and the mid-week preschool program. The S.W.A.T. Team is also involved in leading worship, doing drama skits and puppet plays, running audio-visual equipment, greeting and securing visitor information for KIDS Church while others are serving as prayer leaders. These boys and girls are enthusiastic, capable and take their responsibilities very seriously. One leader remarked, "I'm so excited about working with these kids – they're not here because their parents have told them they have to be – they're part of the S.W.A.T. Team because they want to be!"

Joan York, Stoney Creek Alliance Church, Stoney Creek, ON



Catechism for Children

In the Greek New Testament the word for "instruct" or "teach" is "katecho." From this word we get our English word "catechize." It simply means to teach Biblical truth in an orderly way. This is generally done with questions and answers accompanied by Biblical support and explanations. Since the days of the Early Church, we have always had doctrinal creeds and confessions to assist us to "continue in the faith, stable and steadfast." (Colossians 1:23) Pastor David Smith of the Fairview Alliance Church in Quebec has revised and edited a "Catechism for Children and Youth" which is used by families and in church programming to help build a "stable and firm" generation who hopes in God. David has tested this discipleship resource with his own nine children!

For a copy of this resource, contact David Smith at (514) 684-0156.

David Smith, Fairview Alliance Church, Montreal, PQ

Oops!

Oops! We made some mistakes! In our last issue of Lifesavers, we printed an article entitled "Top 10 Reasons" which gave the reasons why kids are God's top priority. Some Scripture references need to be adjusted and the correct verses are as follows:

Reason #4 – Ecclesiastes 12:1

Reason #6 – Psalm 8:2

Reason #7 – Matthew 18:10 – 14

Reason #8 – Matthew 11:25 – 26

DiscipleLand

The characters Dee, Cy and Paul and their dog, Chip (does that sound like discipleship to you?) lead preschoolers through to Grade 6'ers on a journey through DiscipleLand where kids become disciples. This curriculum is chronological in sequence and has been in development for 10 years by Christian educators, pastors and missionaries who have a heart's desire to help the Church fulfill the Great Commission.

What makes DiscipleLand different? Their goal is to grow disciples in our kid's generation.

- Develops Compassion for the World
- Inspires Students to Love God
- Strengthens the Home
- Changes Students' Lives
- Ignites Learner Potential
- Promotes Biblical Literacy
- Launches Ministry Skills
- Empowers Teachers

One of the developers was a student of Howard Hendricks who said at the end of his teaching that when he saw his students, his one question would be, "Show me your disciples." DiscipleLand has taken this charge seriously – they disciple kids.

Laura Hahn at First Alliance in Calgary has been using DiscipleLand with their preschoolers. One of their preschoolers is close to getting it! They asked the worship leader one Sunday when the giving project would be done because when it was finished, he needed his offering back for his piggy bank. Let's do our part to disciple kids!

**1-800-284-0158, or,
www.ThroughTheBible.com**

Carol Wiebe, Unionville Alliance Church, Unionville, ON

Laura Hahn, First Alliance Church, Calgary, AB



Jan Heppner, Kelowna Alliance Church, Kelowna, BC

LINE UPON LINE... ...HELPING CHILDREN LOVE AND FOLLOW JESUS



From the very start, we humans learn one step at a time. A baby cannot walk until he or she goes through the process of learning to sit up, crawl, stand, and then, finally, take those wobbly, first steps – much to the parent's great excitement! One does not become an astute student until the processes of learning to read, write, think and analyze information have reached a mature level. In the same way, the teaching and learning of Christian faith and principles must follow learning processes that coincide with the age and learning level of the child. For example, we cannot expect children to understand where they stand in the Creation-Evolution debate before they know who God is, how He created the world in six days and that He is the One who created them. Also, in our teaching, we have to take into consideration the spiritual development of a child – is the child new to church or have they grown up in a Christian home? Becoming a fully devoted disciple of Christ doesn't just happen. It is a process – one that begins at birth and does not end until life is over.

Over the years, I have taken into consideration these developmental issues and have put together a paper called "Spiritual Foundation and Formation of Children, Ages 2 to 12." In this outline, I cover such topics as God, Jesus, the Bible, Prayer, Christian Living, Missions and others. Each topic sets out what can be expected to be learned at each age level and then gives guidelines and goals to move children through the steps to becoming a truly disciplined child – one who knows Jesus Christ personally and is committed to following Him.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of these guidelines for discipleship, I have agreed to make them available through Lifesavers at the end of August for a nominal fee. It is a "work in progress," and I would appreciate any and all suggestions, comments, and critique as together we help children love and follow Jesus line upon line.