

2.2 What are the most important & effective things we can do in our programs?

## 2.2 What are the most important & effective things we can do in our programs?

Many churches in many places have found Sunday school, Bible clubs, or Bible teaching hours to be very effective programs for teaching God’s Word. Believers have been teaching their children in a variety of ways from the early church on. Sunday school began amongst the poor children in the city of London, England, over a hundred years ago. It has also been used very effectively to teach children in Africa. Many children have learned a lot of the Bible through the Sunday school. Many children have begun to understand the Gospel, and have received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord—all in Sunday school. Many newcomers have entered the church because of such programs, too. In fact, we can almost say that in just about every place where children’s and youth ministry is strong, the church of Jesus Christ is strengthened through it.

**These activities should normally take place in every program:**

- Singing and dancing to give praise to God
- Teaching children to pray
- Teaching children the books and verses of the Bible
- Teaching children Bible stories, principles and doctrine
- Leading the lost to Jesus Christ
- Applying the Bible to real life—putting it into practice

**These activities may also take place as the church discerns the need:**

- Teaching children to give to God (offering)
- Teaching practical subjects and skills—nutrition, health, manners, homemaking skills, gardening, reading, etc.
- Teaching the lives of great preachers and missionaries

All six of the activities in the first list, or all nine activities in both lists combined can take place in any order. We can change the order of these activities in any way the church desires. Example: Students may pray at the beginning of the program, during any part of the program, or at the end of the program. They may learn the Bible verse before the Bible lesson, during the Bible lesson as a part of it, or after the Bible lesson. These lists only give ideas about what kinds of activities we can and should do in our children’s programs. They say nothing about the order in which we should do them. That order is entirely open.

In the following chapters of this book, we will consider each of these activities, we will discuss its importance and how to do it well.

**LET’S REVIEW**

What do we do in our programs? Write six activities that should be included in every children’s or youth program:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



2.2 What are the most important & effective things we can do in our programs?

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Now write three additional activities that could also be included in the church sees a need for it:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

What do we mean by teaching practical skills and subjects? Give several examples, and add some ideas of your own if you wish:

.....

Of these practical skills and subjects, which do you believe would be of the most immediate help to the children where you teach? With your church’s permission, plan to add a bit of that subject to your program each week.

.....

Which activities seem to be especially needed by children in your village? Why?

.....

