

# Teaching Young Christians to Grow

## The Need to Teach a Young Christian

- God commands us to evangelize and to disciple (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Our goal is to present each Christian, children included, mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28)

## Discipleship

- Definition of discipleship

Discipleship is guiding a person in the process of being conformed more and more to the image of Jesus Christ

- Aims of discipleship

That the child will experience spiritual growth in his life

That the child will trust the Lord for victory

That the child will daily become more conformed to the image of Christ

- Results of discipleship

The child will know assurance of his salvation

The child will willingly allow the Lord to use his life for service

The child will become established in a Bible-believing church

## Helping the Child Understand His New Life

- Description of new life

Born into God's family (John 1:12)

Becomes a new person and is changed on the inside (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Can now depend on God's wisdom, power and action to live this new life (Galatians 2:20)

- Comparison of physical and spiritual birth

## **Basic Features of a Life of Discipleship: Assurance of Salvation**

- God's Word teaches that we can know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13)
- God's Word teaches that we should live a fruitful life (Matt. 7:17)
- God's Word teaches us that we should trust in His promises (Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 John 1:9)

## **Basic Features of a Life of Discipleship: Listening to God Through His Word**

- Use a children's Bible
- Read a section of a chapter each day
- Read from the books of Mark or John
- Use a children's devotional book
- Remember method for daily Bible reading

Pray

Read

Think

Pray

Obey

## **Basic Features of a Life of Discipleship: Conversing with God**

- Hand method for praying (Steps to follow)
  - Make a fist to remind him to confess sin
  - Palm of hand—Thank God for Who He is
  - Thumb—Pray for people close to his heart
  - Index finger—Pray for people who point others to God
  - Middle finger—Pray for people who are in authority
  - Fourth finger—Pray for people who are weak, sick or unsaved
  - Little finger—Pray for himself

- Teaching tips

Present one or two of the steps each week

Model the steps during prayer time

Encourage the children to share testimonies of when and how they used the steps during the week

**The new babe in Christ depends on you to feed, nurture and to train him.**