

Partners



Partners is published quarterly by the WELS Commission on Youth Discipleship to assist those in Sunday school ministry.

1 John 1:1 - A Model for Our Method

by Joel A. Nelson, WELS Youth Discipleship Administrator

Every student (child, teen, & adult) is different. They have all been blessed by God with unique intellectual and emotional gifts, learning dispositions, and ways of making sense of the world around them. If we want to make the teaching of God's Word more meaningful, memorable, and fun for our students, we need to teach in ways that connect with these unique, God-given learning styles.

While more and more research is being done on multiple intelligences, most experts will agree that there are three basic learning modalities or styles: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Everyone has at least one dominant learning style. Some people have two, some all three. In every classroom, no matter the age of the students, these three learning styles are present. Good teachers will consider the learning styles of each student in their classes, and design and present lessons that connect with each learning style.

VISUAL LEARNER

A visual learner is a student who needs to see what she/he learns. She/he creates a picture in her/his mind's eye of what's being taught. She/he uses imagination extensively. For students who are more visual, learning is enhanced when they can see actual pictures, objects, and diagrams relating to the lesson and when they can create good pictures in their minds in response to clear and colorful explanations or descriptions.

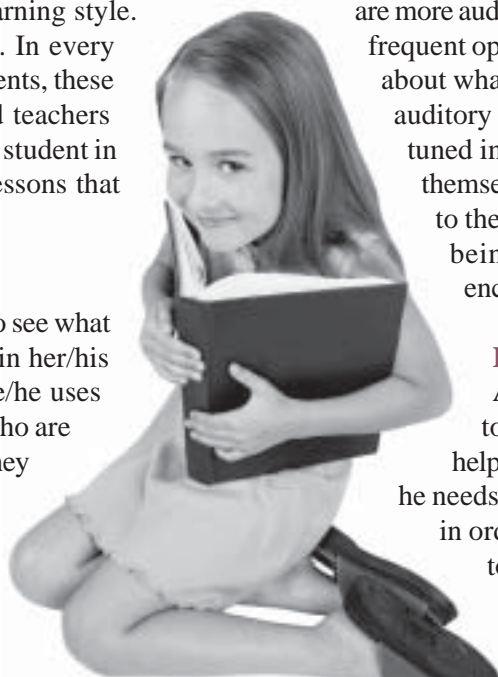
Students who are more visually oriented learn by seeing and watching. Sometimes they are accused of day-dreaming or being lost in thought. They also like to draw and doodle. Frequently they are encouraged to "pay attention."

AUDITORY LEARNER

An auditory learner is a student who needs to hear what she/he learns. She/he responds to the sounds of the teacher and any sounds unique to the lesson that can be included. She/he needs what is called "thinking noise"—being able to hear themselves saying words and phrases. For students who are more auditory, learning is enhanced when they have frequent opportunities to talk, discuss, and verbalize about what is being taught. Students who are more auditory in their style learn by listening. They are tuned in to "thinking noise." They like to talk to themselves and others. They like to read out loud to themselves. Sometimes they are accused of being "chatterboxes" and are frequently encouraged to "shhhhh".

KINESTHETIC LEARNER

A kinesthetic learner is a student who needs to move while she/he learns. Movement helps her/him to remember what is taught. She/he needs to put some kind of motion into learning in order to make it meaningful. She/he is able to concentrate best when breaks or "good disruptions" are built into the lesson. For students who are more kinesthetic,



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learning is enhanced through physical action, touching, and manipulation of objects. Students who are more kinesthetic, learn by moving. Sometimes they are called “fidgety” or “wiggle worms” and are frequently encouraged to “sit still”.

The next time you teach a Bible lesson try to accommodate the three learning modalities in meaningful ways. Ask yourself the following questions:



FOR VISUAL LEARNERS:

Do I have some colorful pictures or objects that relate to the lesson? What can I draw or write on the blackboard, perhaps with colored chalk? Is my lesson presentation “colorful” enough so students can paint their own, clear picture of the lesson events in their minds? How can I position myself throughout the lesson in such a way that every student can easily see me and make eye contact with me? How can I use my own body movements to help tell the story?



FOR AUDITORY LEARNERS:

How will I provide “thinking noise” time for students? Will meaningful time be given for students to verbally participate in the lesson via answering questions, small group discussions, or even repeating words or phrases after me? How could I add a verbal rhythm to my lesson presentation, to the lesson discussion, etc?



FOR KINESTHETIC LEARNERS:

Will there be things in my lesson students can touch or manipulate? Will my lesson have periodic “breaks” built into it where students can move to a new area of the classroom, get together with fellow students, stand up, sit down, role play, physically imitate lesson characters or settings, sing action Bible songs, etc?

A great resource on the subject of learning styles that your Sunday school staff could work through is CYD’s, *The Word of Life Comes to Life*, available from <www.shopwels.net>. It is also described on the CYD website under Sunday School Ministry Resources. A wonderful book is Cynthia Tobias’ *The Way They Learn*, published by Focus on the Family.

It wasn’t until I started to pay more attention to learning styles that the words of 1 John 1:1 really clicked with me in a new way. This passage clearly demonstrates that Jesus connected with the three learning styles through his teaching. Listen to what John says:

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard (auditory), which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at (visual), and our hands have touched (kinesthetic)—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.”

As you plan for your lessons, think about the three wonderful learning styles Jesus has placed in you and in each of your dear students. Then present Bible lessons that truly connect with them.

Have a wonderful summer!



2004 marks the 28th Olympiad in Athens, Greece, where the games began. This summer, bring Olympic fun to your Vacation Bible School and show how we willingly do all things for God because he gives us the ultimate victory in Christ. So get...Ready, Set, Gold!

Ready, Set, Gold! is a Christ-centered, five-day vacation Bible school curriculum for children, teens, and adults. The program helps students learn about the golden victory Jesus won for them through his perfect life, redeeming sacrifice, and triumphant resurrection. Through this program, they will be reminded to train in God’s Word, trust in the Lord as their leader, and show love for their Savior by obeying him, showing kindness to others, and sharing his saving news. Along the way students will also learn about Olympic sports, as well as enjoy snacks and theme-related games.

Point your browser to <<http://www.nph.net/cgi-bin/site.pl?servicingVBS>> to learn more details or download logos, graphics, and song samples.

Equipping to Share the Joy SMILE III

Wisconsin Lutheran College,
Milwaukee, WI
July 16-18, 2004

Conference Details – The cost for the conference is \$100/person and includes all meals and lodging. For more information or a registration packet, contact either Bruce Cuppan at (920) 922-8672 (email: <bnecuppan@excel.net>) or Bob Mateske at (414) 256-3274 (email: <mateskeb@sab.wels.net>). Registration deadline is Friday, June 18th, 2004.

Imagine... **THE PROMISED LAND**

by Pastor Robert Knippel, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church-Madison, WI

- ◆ Imagine raising children who are growing in their devotion to Christ, who are able to meet the challenges their generation faces and be leaders in the Kingdom!
- ◆ Imagine a place where children have so much fun learning about how awesome God is that they don't want to miss a single week.
- ◆ Imagine a setting where the music is engaging and the children leave humming the tunes and singing the words that help them remember Bible truths all week.
- ◆ Imagine the effective use of video and drama to teach this media-driven generation to know Jesus and how to live the Christian life at home, at school and in their neighborhood.
- ◆ Imagine a ministry where children are intentionally shepherded in small groups where they are known and loved.
- ◆ Imagine a program where many adult volunteers serve with joy and in the area of their passion, knowing they are influencing the next generation of Jesus' disciples!

If you have a healthy imagination, you have a pretty good idea about what is happening in the new children's ministry underway at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin. For kids, ages three through the fourth grade, this new children's ministry called *Promised Land* is filled with activities, games, crafts, learning about Jesus and just plain old-fashioned FUN!

Each weekend, *Promised Land* begins with thirty minutes of interactive play under the supervision of each child's shepherd. A few minutes are spent at the end of this period, developing background and creating readiness for the day's lesson. Everyone then heads to Large Group, where the *Promised Land* Players teach the children to know their Savior Jesus through drama, video and song. Each week our time wraps up with a snack and Small Group time spent with their Shepherd, helping the students apply the day's lesson to their everyday lives.

Our *Promised Land* ministry has as its primary focus, to assist families in their attempt to lay down a spiritual foundation that strengthens a child's relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are still in stages of development, but attendance is up over our former Sunday school program, volunteers of all ages are excited to be part of *Promised Land*, and the time spent at *Promised Land* just might be one of the best hours of our kid's week. Imagine that!

To learn more about *Promised Land* and Our Redeemer's unique ministry to children and families, contact pastor Robert Knippel at 608-274-6608 or email: ourredeemer@mailbag.com



A Summer "To Do" List for Your Students and You

✓ Follow Jesus

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. *Luke 9:23*

✓ Study the Bible

Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me. *Psalms 119:133*

✓ Worship Regularly

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. *Acts 2:42,46*

✓ Serve Others

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. *Galatians 6:9-10*

✓ Share the Good News

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. *Acts 8:4*

✓ Pray

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. *Ephesians 6:18*

Check It Out!

Teaching Sunday School: A Wonderful Calling

by Joel Nelson / 2003 / 6 pages / FREE

This is an engaging, downloadable study about the call Sunday school teachers have. It also discusses the personal and public ministry that Sunday school teachers share. Use it as a staff study to begin the next Sunday school season. You can find the free study at the CYD website under "Consultation and Resources" and then in the "Sunday School Ministry Resources" folder. Or you can contact <cyd@sab.wels.net> for a copy.



Dear Friend in Heaven: Prayers for Children and Adults

by Else Cuppen, Susan Gurgel, Jane Mose, Deborah Schuh and WELS' Jesus Cares Ministries / 2004 / 39 pages / \$6.95

This is a specially designed prayer book to be used by or with children and adults. Prayers are provided in 17 different topical areas. For each topic, four styles of prayers are presented: prose prayers, rebus prayers (prayers using pictures), personalized prayers, and song prayers. To order, contact JCM Publications (877) 505-3675 or <jcm@tlha.org>. You can also check out the JCM website at jcmministries.org.

Into All the World

CD-ROM / by Northwestern Publishing House / 2003
NPH product # 33N0118 / \$39.99

Newly released, *Into All the World*, allows users to explore the growth of the early church, highlighting the missionary journeys of Paul. Probably more than anything, it's a resource that would allow a teacher (or user) to share insights into this time period. Think electronic flannel graph, and that's a pretty good picture. While perhaps more designed for group use (adults, teens, and upper grades), *Into All the World* would also be beneficial for individuals. Order from 1-800-662-6022 or www.nph.net.



Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach

by Donald Griggs (Abingdon Press) / 2003 / 168 pages / NPH product # 15N4050 / \$18.00

This soft-cover book is designed to help the teacher of Sunday school teachers. Even though the book contains some questionable theology in spots, the numerous practical suggestions and helps for teachers would make this book a useful purchase. Lesson planning and preparation, the art of asking questions, encouraging creativity, use of media, and the use of student activities are all covered. The content would be very useful for teachers of teachers, but also for individual teachers themselves. Order from 1-800-662-6022 or www.nph.net.

Care and Feeding of Volunteers

by Bolton, Bright & Cressy (Standard Publishing) / 2001 / 144 pages / NPH product # 15N3928 / \$14.99

This is a very good start-to-finish manual for organizing a high quality education ministry with primary emphasis on Sunday school. The title is misleading as the content is not as broad as the title implies. The focus is on volunteer teachers. The book is filled with many good ideas. Order from 1-800-662-6022 or www.nph.net.

Great Ideas From Great Teachers

by Bob Mateske, CYD Administrative Assistant

In the last issue, we introduced two ideas that were submitted by Sunday school teachers. Remember that one of the objectives of *Partners* is to communicate and to share teaching ideas, tips, and helps with Sunday school teachers, superintendents, and pastors. Each issue (as space allows) we will feature ideas submitted to the CYD office. Send your ideas to us via email <cyd@sab.wels.net> or by surface mail (WELS-CYD, 2929 N. Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53222-4398).

Craft Ideas

(from Jan Koepsell, Living Word, Montrose, CO)

- 1) For the very youngest students, cut a piece of poster board about 6" x 4". Punch two holes at the top and insert a yarn hanger. On the poster board make an outline of the letter "J" (for Jesus). Make the letter as large as possible. Have the children glue cereal pieces (like Cheerios) to the large "J". By wearing this necklace with the letter "J", the children will be reminded that Jesus is always near. Be sure to have enough cereal on hand for some extracurricular snacking.
- 2) Make a door hanger out of poster board. Collect and have on hand appropriate pictures from church bulletins, magazines, greeting cards, etc. Let the children cut these up in any manner they choose, and glue them to the door hanger, completely covering the hanger. Have them write on a piece of paper (white or colored), a Bible verse from the story they are studying. Cut out the verse and glue on top of the pictures.

Reformation Sunday

What is the Reformation? Why is there a special service on Reformation Sunday? Who is Martin Luther? These are all

questions that children often ask. Why not take some time in leading the children in your Sunday school class to better understand Luther and the Reformation? Large Reformation reading books for younger children (preschool-2nd grade) are available at NPH. There are also short videos which tell the life of Martin Luther.

- 1) Craft for younger children – Luther seal magnet made from colored foam board. Glue each piece, after tracing and cutting out, on top of each other to give a 3-D effect. Glue magnet strip on back. Patterns for the Luther seal are available in many books.
- 2) Craft for older children – Larger Luther seal made with overhead. Again you will need a pattern to use. A separate large piece needs to be made for each color of the seal. Divide the children into age groups (e.g. 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th) and have each group color (markers, crayon, tempera paint) one piece of the seal. (Piece will be large enough for children to stand around a table to color.) When done have all children bring their piece to one location and assemble seal by gluing the separate pieces together. Display finished seal in central location. While the children are working on their part, discuss the seal and what each color means. (Submitted by Debbie Wilson, St. John, Lannon, WI)

Partners Newsletter

If you know someone who would benefit from receiving this newsletter, please contact the CYD office. If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter in the future, do nothing; however, if you would like to stop receiving it, contact the CYD office (414) 256-3274 or email <cyd@sab.wels.net>. Contact the CYD office for address changes and/or your Sunday school staff changes.

Only At Sunday School!



A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible... Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verses. Little Jenny was excited about the task, but she just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, she could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Jenny was nervous. When it was her turn, she stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd...and that's all I need to know!"

A little boy found the old family Bible and started thumbing through the pages. As he was turning the yellowed pages, a pressed tree leaf fell out.

He exclaimed, "Hey, this must be a really old Bible, part of Adam and Eve's clothes are in it!"



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Partners



Date/Location/Cost

Fri.-Sun. September 17-19, 2004.
Naperville, IL (25 miles west of Chicago).
\$135/person covers everything-lodging, meals,
materials...everything!

Keynote Presentations:

- ◆ “Building from the Ground Up: The Importance of Parents and Home”
- ◆ “Building an Outreaching Ministry: The Importance of Sharing Jesus with Everyone”

- ◆ “Building a Ministry of Strong Partnerships: The Importance of Working Together”

Sectionals on Parenting, Catechism and Confirmation, Special Needs, Sunday School, VBS, Early Childhood, Teens, Outreach, Christian Camps, Para-Synodical Youth Ministries, PLUS: Networking Nooks, Models Sharing, Open Space Discussions, Organization Displays, and the NPH Bookstore.

Special Bonus!!!

A pre-conference workshop on the new “Faith Stepping Stones” curriculum will be conducted the day of September 17 by the authors and Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service staff. Cost \$89.00.

**Registration details coming in June.
Email <cyd@sab.wels.net> for more information.**

Please contact us with any questions or for further information.

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