Issue 1 | Oct 2009

[Preface]
With love we will like to begin with this 12 series encouragement email passages and activities for Religious Education teachers. Our aim is to promote interaction with REU Teachers through sharing reflections, encouragement and resources, and to give them ideas to enhance their lesson with students.

We would love to hear your feedback and also receive contributions that we can share with others. You can send your submissions to Sis. Qingqing using this email: sch.edu@tjc.org

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed compiling, editing and writing it.

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{The Heart Of A Servant} – Part 1
Manna Issue 45 – Jul-Sept 04, Jason Hsu-Baldwin Park, California, USA

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
(Psalms 84:10)

This message holds true for those who love to serve the Lord. A day in the Lord’s courts is better than a thousand days elsewhere, and to be a doorkeeper in God’s house is better than living comfortably in the home of the wicked.

The heart of the Lord’s servant is always set upon God’s dwelling place, for that is where God’s kingdom and people are found (Rev 1:6; 5:10). Prophet Daniel loved God’s people (Dan 9:19), and he made it his practice from an early age to kneel down three times a day in prayer with his windows open towards Jerusalem (Dan 6:10).

Like Daniel, the Lord Jesus loved Jerusalem because it was the city of God’s people, and He spent much time teaching in the temple (Lk 19:41-48; Jn 2:13-22).

John 2:13-22 records how Jesus once cleansed the temple as the Passover of the Jews was at hand (Jn 2:13). Some probably viewed Jesus’ cleansing of the temple as an extreme and dishonorable act. If we view the act in human terms, we also might interpret Jesus’ anger in the temple as a sign of over-zealousness on His part, but it was Jesus’ zealous heart that was the key to the renewal of God’s temple. Today, those concerned with the business of God’s kingdom often wonder how to revive the church.

Actually, Jesus’ actions are an example for us, teaching us what it means to possess the heart of a servant (cf. Mt 20:28). If, as servants of the Lord, we can comprehend the Lord’s heart of servitude, we too can discover the keys to reviving God’s kingdom.

A HEART FULL OF ZEAL
When Jesus entered the temple, He saw many merchants selling animals and moneychangers seated for business and changing currency for the use of the temple (Jn 2:14; cf. Mt 17:24-27). But as the Lord saw all these activities going on in God’s house, He became angry, made a scourge of cords, and drove all those doing business out of the temple.

Jesus took this seemingly extreme approach because of His zeal for God’s house, which was born out of love for God. As His servants, we likewise should be full of zeal for God’s house out of love for Him (Jn 2:17; Ps 69:9).

Zeal born out of love is like a fire, and its strength like a death from which there is no escape. Such zeal can consume a person because it is a most vehement flame (Song 8:6-7; cf. Rom 8:35-39).

In our service for the Lord’s house, we must have this type of zeal born out of love. If our love remains set upon the things of this world, we will go the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness (2 Pet 2:15).

The apostle Paul is a good example of one who possessed great zeal for God. But before he came to know Christ, his zeal for God was misguided (Gal 1:13-14; Phil 3:6). After apostle Paul came to know Christ, however, he counted as rubbish those things he could have profited from before. No longer considering his own selfish gain as a servant of God, he was zealous for the treasures he possessed as a servant of Christ (Phil 3:7-14). His example teaches us that a true servant of the Lord will never focus his heart on material gain (1 Cor 9:7-12; 1 Thess 2:4-9, 2 Thess 3:8).

Jesus taught us saying, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Mt 6:24). If the zeal of our heart is set upon material gain, our heart will always be divided between two masters.

Although this teaching seems extreme, like Jesus’ cleansing of the temple, it is meant to compel us to rethink our priorities. The Lord’s teachings about zeal are worth pondering as we, His servants, continue in our service for Him.

Self-interests can often turn into selfish interests if we do not guard our heart.

… to be continued.
Every child is curious about how he or she was named. To begin this activity, encourage the children to share about how their names are chosen if they know.

In Bible times names were very important. Choosing a name for a child was a serious decision. Many times a name was chosen that described something of the person’s character, or due to the circumstances surrounding his birth.

Finish your discussion explaining that God reveals His character to us through His name. In the Old Testament God spoke to Moses concerning His name. “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM'” (Exodus 3:14).

When God said “I AM” it meant “I am the Self-existent One; the Eternal, the One who always has been and always will be.” God is the Ever present and Living One. His name expresses His character as the dependable or faithful God who wants His people to trust Him.

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.
Philippians 2:10

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Romans 10:13

Materials: 12” X 18” construction paper, scissors, pencil, newspaper

How to do:
1. Use a sheet of newspaper to make a few tries with different printing or writing styles.
2. Fold the sheet of paper in half.
3. Beginning at the folded edge, print or write your name.
4. Cut out around the edge of the letters leaving the fold in tact. Open and observe.
5. Practice with newspaper until you determine which writing style you like. Repeat the procedure using construction paper.
6. Glue the name design to a background sheet of construction paper.

Alternative Idea: Use one of the names for Jesus as a design idea.

Names of Jesus:

Wonderful  Son of Man  Lamb of God
Counselor  Light of the World  The Word
Mighty God  Emmanuel  Savior
Prince of Peace  Bread of Life  Son of God

Excerpt from: The Heart of a Teacher by Paula Fox

The child arrives like a mystery box...with puzzle pieces inside some of the pieces are broken or missing...and others just seem to hide

But the HEART of a teacher can sort them out...and help the child to see the potential for greatness he has within...a picture of what he can be

Her goal isn’t just to teach knowledge...by filling the box with more parts it’s putting the pieces together...and creating a work of art

The process is painfully slow at times...some need more help than others each child is a work in progress...with assorted shapes and colors

First she creates a classroom...where the child can feel safe in school where he never feels threatened or afraid to try...and kindness is always the rule

She knows that a child can achieve much more when he feels secure inside when he’s valued and loved...and believes in himself...and he has a sense of pride

She models and teaches good character...and respect for one another how to focus on strengths...not weaknesses and how to encourage each other

She gives the child the freedom he needs...to make choices on his own so he learns to become more responsible...and is able to stand alone

He’s taught to be strong and think for himself...as his soul and spirit heal and the puzzle that’s taking shape inside...has a much more positive feel

The child discovers the joy that comes...from learning something new...and his vision grows as he begins to see all the things that he can do

A picture is formed as more pieces fit...an image of the child within with greater strength and confidence...and a belief that he can win!

All because a hero was there...in the HEART of a teacher who cared enabling the child to become much more...than he ever imagined...or dared

A teacher with a HEART for her children...knows what teaching is all about she may not have all the answers...but on this...she has no doubt

When asked which subjects she loved to teach, she answered this way and smiled..."It’s not the subjects that matter...It’s all about teaching the CHILD."