



# *CHILDREN'S DAY 2012*

Theme

**UNDERSTANDING THE MISSION:  
WHAT JESUS WANTS ME TO DO**

**“We Are God’s Advertisements”**

Written by

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Dear Workers with VARICK'S CHILDREN,

“Understanding the Mission – What Jesus Wants Me to Do” is the sub-theme for children of the Quadrennial Theme: “21<sup>st</sup> Christians - Restoring the Mission, Re-tooling the Leadership, Rebuilding the Community.” In keeping with the sub-theme, the Children's Day theme for VARICK'S CHILDREN is “We Are God's Advertisements” which is also the title of the Children's Day message.

VARICK'S CHILDREN need to know that they are special and that they represent God/Jesus. The major emphasis is being the best they can be. Proverbs 20:11 says: “Even a child is known for his behavior. His actions show whether he is innocent and good.”

The 2012 Children's Day Order of Worship materials include:

- VC Call to Worship
- VC Invocation
- The Hymn of Praise – VC theme song: “Jesus Loves Me”
- The Responsive Litany
- The Message (to be delivered by one of VARICK'S CHILDREN, ages 8-11)

Three Workshops

- “Living Stones”
- “Serve As Jesus Served”
- “Green Guard – God's Stewards”

The national observance of Children's Day is June 10, 2012. I encourage you to celebrate VARICK'S CHILDREN on that day. However, if you cannot observe Children's Day on June 10<sup>th</sup>, please celebrate VARICK'S CHILDREN on another day. I hope that the children will be allowed to participate fully in the Morning Worship Service.

This is my last Children's Day as the Director of Children's Ministries – VARICK'S CHILDREN.

Thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers of  
VARICK'S CHILDREN through the years. You are **Very Important  
People**. God loves you and so do I.

Educationally,

*Helen C. Scott-Carter, Ph.D.*

Director, Children's Ministries

VARICK'S CHILDREN

CED/AME Zion Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Prelude

The Processional Hymn

The Call to Worship

This is the Lord's day.

This is the Lord's house.

This is the Lord's people.

Let us worship and give thanks.

The Invocation

O Holy Spirit of God –

We invite Your presence into our service today. Be with us in our praise and in our prayers, in our songs and in our silence, in our joy and in our sadness, in our times of study and in our times of play, in the light of the morning and the darkness of the evening.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Hymn of Praise (VC theme song)      “Jesus Loves Me”

The Responsive Litany (Insert)

The Gloria Patri ( To be sung or read)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.

The APOSTLES' CREED

The Announcements

The Pastor's Moment

The Music by the Children's Choir

The Offering and the Offertory

The Scripture

Old Testament – Psalm 139:14

New Testament – Mark 10:14-16

The Prayer Hymn

The Morning Hymn

The Lord's Prayer

The Prayer Response

“Into My Heart”

The Song of Preparation

The Message

“We Are God's Advertisements”

The Invitation/Invitation Hymn

“Come to Jesus”

The Doxology

The Recessional Hymn

The Benediction

The Postlude

## THE RESPONSIVE LITANY

**Leader: “Let the children come to me...The kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these children.”**

*People: We are God’s advertisements.*

**Leader: “Children are know by their behavior.”**

*People: We are God’s advertisements.*

**Leader: “Train up children in the way they should go.”**

*People: We are God’s advertisements.*

**Leader: “Jesus continued to learn more and more and to grow physically. People liked Him and He pleased God.”**

*People: We are God’s advertisements.*

**Leader: “The child grew up and became strong in spirit.”**

*People: We are God’s advertisements.*

**Leader: “We are a chosen people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood.”**

*People: We are God’s advertisements.*

**Leader: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”**

*People: We are God’s advertisements.*

Scripture: Mark 10:14; Proverbs 20:11, 22:6; Luke 2:52; 1:80;  
I Peter 2:9; Psalm 139:14

## Children's Day Message

### VARICK'S CHILDREN ARE GOD'S ADVERTISEMENTS

Have you ever heard anyone say: "It pays to advertise"?

Advertising is big business. Madison Avenue, a center for advertising, is responsible for creating ads and commercials for many products. They create slogans that encourage us to buy products. Here are some slogans you have probably heard:

"I'm lovin' it."

"Have it your way."

"Got milk?"

"So easy a caveman can do it."

"Think outside the bun."

They also create logos:

The Golden Arches – McDonald's

The gecko – GEICO

The duck – Aflac

Jesus used children in a commercial about the kingdom of God. One day some parents brought their children to Jesus to have Jesus bless them. When the disciples saw Jesus surrounded by children and their parents, they thought that Jesus had more important things to do than spend time with children. The disciples tried to send the children away. But Jesus was unhappy with what he saw His disciples were trying to do. Jesus told His disciples to "let the children come to Me – do not stop them. Then Jesus announced to all the people nearby that "the kingdom of God belongs to such as the children." Now for Jesus' commercial – "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter into the kingdom of God."

What was the message of Jesus' commercial? Jesus wanted people then and us now to know if we have the trust and gentleness of a child,

heaven would be their home. So everyone must live life in such a way that he/she reflects what heaven is like.

Proverbs 20:11 says: “Even a child is known by his doings, whether they be pure or whether they be right.” This is VARICK’S CHILDREN’s special verse, a verse chosen to remind us who and what we are. We are God’s special advertisement. We must always present ourselves well – how we speak, how we dress, what we do, and the choices we make.

As VARICK’S CHILDREN we are Christian commercials. The TV screen of our lives is always on display. Our animation is high definition.

How we speak reveals our attitude. Are we sassy? Do we talk back? Are we belligerent? Are we soft-spoken? Does our body language reveal our thoughts? Do we use inappropriate language – words that do not represent Jesus?

What we say tells people what we are thinking and what we have learned? We must have good manners. Here are some Golden Rules of Manners:

Always be dependable.

Be courteous and kind.

Make please and thank you a part of you.

Speak kind words.

How we dress tells people what we think of God and ourselves. We must wear clothes appropriate for the occasion – church clothes, school clothes, play clothes, dress up clothes, casual clothes, beach/playground clothes. WE must ask: Do the clothes we wear please God?

Do you know why we dress up for church on Sunday? As slaves we wore work clothes/jeans/overalls. So on Sunday we dressed up for Jesus.

What we do includes how we act in our daily activities. Do we play fair? How do we treat our peers? Do we honor our father and mother? Do we respect our elders? The 5th Commandment is the only commandment with a promise: “Honor your father and your father. Then you will live a long time...” The Golden Rule tells us to treat others as we wish to be treated.

The choices we make affect others. If we choose to follow Jesus our lives will be happy and productive. If we choose to follow a gang or our peers in time our lives will be miserable.

VARICK’S CHILDREN are God’s advertisement. We are wonderfully made samples of God’s handiwork. We are God’s special creation. We are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). When God created the world and all that is in it, God saved the best creation to last. Unlike the other creatures in God’s world, we were given God’s best. We were created in God’s image. Just like God gave us His best, we must present ourselves to others as representatives of God. Our lives must be God’s commercial to show the world how wonderful and loving God is.

The second verse of our theme song “Jesus Loves VARICK’S CHILDREN,” written by our director Dr. Carter, expresses how we are God’s advertisement like this:

“We are known by what we do.  
Our work must be pure and true.  
If you train us, as we grow  
We will learn the way to go.”

God bless you all, but especially my peers, VARICK’S CHILDREN.

Amen.

## II. UNDERSTANDING OUR MISSION

Theme: What Jesus Wants Me to Do

Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20

Lesson One: "Living Stones"

Objectives:

1. VARICK'S CHILDREN will share how buildings are constructed.
  1. VC will explain what "living stones" are.
  2. VC will compare building blocks with "living stones."
  3. VC will identify the foundation of the temple.
  4. VC will tell how they can be used in the building of God's kingdom.

Scripture: I Peter 2:4-7; I Corinthians 3:9,16

Music:

Outcome: VC will strive to be "living stones" that God can use in the building of His kingdom on earth.

Materials

1. Picture of a building under construction
  1. Bricks and paving stones
  2. LEGOS
  3. Small milk cartons to make "bricks"
  4. Styrofoam "bricks"
  5. Blocks

LESSON

One of the most important goals we have is to be like Jesus. Peter identified both Jesus and Christians as "Living stones." In his graphic

illustration of the church Peter referred to Jesus using the words of Psalm 118:22 –

“the stone that the builders did not want became the cornerstone.” Jesus had been chosen by God but rejected by humankind. In Mark 12, Jesus Himself quoted Psalm 118:22 in the parable of the vineyard (Mark 12:1-12). He used the image of the “living stone” to show that even though He would be rejected by the very people He was trying to reach, Jesus would become the cornerstone of the new society called “Followers of The Way,” later called Christians.

Peter called us “living stones” to describe our place in the building of God’s kingdom. As “living stones” we must allow ourselves to be used to build a spiritual temple. This spiritual temple has Jesus as the foundation and each one of us as a building stone, a “living stone.”

As “living stones,” who are we? We are followers of Jesus the Christ who were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26). We are the children of God, chosen by God to be His building where God dwells. And we are God’s witnesses and ambassadors. An ambassador is a representative from one country to another. II Corinthians 5:20 says that we are “ambassadors for Christ.” As ambassadors for Christ we must proclaim the Good News that Jesus died for our sins, that He died to bring us back to God. Through the cross and the resurrection of Jesus we have been forgiven of our sins and have a new relationship with God. This is the Good News we are to share with others.

Have you ever watched a building under construction? Each part of the building was fitted together to make a whole. Each part was important to the wholeness and soundness of the building. There are no parts that are more important than others. So it is with Christians – “living stones who are used to “construct” the Lord’s house, the church. Each “living stone” is fitted together to build the kingdom of God on earth. We must allow ourselves to be used in the construction of the Lord’s temple/church.

## Motivation

1. Website for the LEGO church  
[www.amyhughes.org/lego/church/photos002.html](http://www.amyhughes.org/lego/church/photos002.html)
2. Research the Morehouse College brick

## Activities

1. What does it mean to be a “stone “ in God’s kingdom?
2. Write a song about being a “living stone.”
3. Where do you fit in the building of the “living temple/church.
4. Make a “living stone” from a small milk carton. Put your name on your “stone.”

Share in building a “church” with your “stone.”

## Lesson Two: “Serve As Jesus Served”

Objectives: VC will learn what it means to serve as Jesus served.

Scripture: Galatians 5:13

Music:

“Serve, serve the Lord”

Outcome: VC will plan and execute a service project.

Motivation/Creative Approaches to Teaching  
Read Leviticus 14

## LESSON

The Scripture verse accurately describes Jesus’ life and mission. Love motivated Jesus’ service to all He met and to all who needed Him. Jesus sought neither fame nor fortune as He served others. Jesus summarized His mission this way: “The Son of Man came not to be

served but to serve” (Mark 10:45). Examples of Jesus serving others in love are numerous. Jesus was always “going about doing good” (Acts 10:38). And Jesus made no distinction regarding who He served. “Jesus went about ...healing all kinds of diseases among the people. They brought to Him all the sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics, and He healed them” (Matthew 4:23-24).

Jesus served children like VARICK’S CHILDREN with love. When the parents brought their children to Jesus to be blessed, Jesus’ disciples tried to turn them away. But when Jesus saw what the disciples were doing, it displeased Him. Jesus rebuked His disciples and welcomed the children:

“Let the children come to Me and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Then Jesus took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:14,16).

Jesus served those whom others rejected. Jesus cleansed a leper. In Jesus’ time, leprosy was a dreaded disease much like AIDS is today. People did not want lepers to touch them. They did not want lepers near them. They threw stones at lepers to keep them at a safe distance. They even put lepers in colonies, places away from the rest of the people. But along came Jesus who did the unthinkable – He touched a leper. This is how it happened. A leper knelt before Jesus and begged Jesus to heal him. Jesus felt compassion for the man. Jesus touched the man and said, “Be healed,” and immediately the man was healed. Jesus told the man not to say anything about his new life. Instead, the man was to take an offering to the temple so that everyone would know that he was well again and as a way of giving thanks for the healing of his leprosy.

Jesus served the hungry on two specific occasions. Jesus fed 4000+ on one occasion and 5,000+ on another occasion. From very little Jesus made much. On both occasions the people were filled and there were basketsful of leftovers.

Jesus served Gentiles. When a Gentile woman asked Jesus to cast demons out of her daughter, Jesus responded:

“Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs” (Mark 7:27).

The woman was not put off by Jesus’ response and said,

“Yes, Lord, even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs” (Mark 7:28).

*Children* referred to the Israelites and *dogs* referred to the Gentiles.

The Gentile woman’s response to Jesus indicated to Jesus the woman’s persistence in receiving healing for her daughter. Realizing the woman’s faith Jesus healed her daughter. When the woman returned home she found her daughter demon free, lying on the bed.

Jesus taught that greatness is serving. He taught by words and example. One day Jesus heard His disciples engaged in a heated argument. They really didn’t want Jesus to know what they were arguing about. So when Jesus asked what they were “discussing,” they were reluctant to tell Him. But Jesus had wisdom that they did not understand. Jesus sensed what the argument was about. This gave Jesus another opportunity to teach His disciples about servant-leadership. Jesus taught them that to be a leader, a person must be a servant. What a turn of events!

Jesus told His disciples that the way people treat children like VARICK’S CHILDREN shows how they treat Him. Jesus took a child up in His arms and said,

“Anyone who welcomes a child in My name is welcoming Me and anyone who welcomes Me is welcoming my Father who sent Me” (Mark 8:37).

Jesus showed He was a servant and He challenged His disciples and us to be servants, too.

Activities:

A. Question Quest

1. List ways that Jesus served.
2. Review Jesus' mission.
3. How did Jesus cleanse the leper?
4. Define *children* and *dogs*
5. Describe the Gentile woman's faith.
6. What is servant-leadership?
7. How is service greatness?

B. Research leprosy.

C. Trace a series of your footprints. Put Jesus' name at one end and your name at the other. On each footprint going toward Jesus write how you can serve as Jesus served.

Lesson Three: "Green ----God's Stewards"

Objectives: VC will learn the meaning of stewardship.

Scripture: Genesis 2:15

Music: "This is My Father's World"

Outcome: VC will be diligent in caring for God's world.

Motivation/Creative Approaches to Teaching

1. Pictures of wild fires, oil spills, smog, etc.

## LESSON

When God created heaven and earth, He commanded that humans be the stewards of His creation. In the beginning God gave man a special task. He was to care for and work in the Garden of Eden. God assigned Adam as the steward over what God had created. God gave Adam two mandates – cultivate the garden and keep/protect the garden..

God wanted Adam to be productive. God gave Adam the opportunity to develop skills as he tended the Garden of Eden. God gave Adam the opportunity to work with Him, to cooperate with Him.

God did not give man free reign to do anything he wanted to the earth – bend it to his own uses or destroy all its beauty – for his own benefit. God did not give man the authority to degrade and destroy His earth. God wanted humankind, in the person of Adam, to take care of, guard and watch over the garden. As the caretaker humankind received the charge to maintain and protect the garden so he could return it to God in as good or better condition than when he received it. It is humankind’s job to cultivate the earth, that is ensure that the land produces a bountiful crop. To realize this, the steward must plow the ground, fertilize it, plant the seed, provide for further growth by watering, and weeding the garden.

You are called to cultivate and protect God’s earth. This means that you must be careful how you use the earth’s resources – land, air and water – as well as the earth’s natural resources.

Earth is our home, the place of abode. It is a fabulous place with its soil, birds, fish, grasses and trees. But humans have exploited and misused the earth badly. Our parents and grandparents have not been good stewards in cultivating and protecting God’s earth. God created a perfect world, but it has not been properly cared for and used.

Here are some things that humankind have allowed to happen to God’s perfect earth:

1. Oil spills from tankers
2. Air pollution/smog
3. Water pollution from factories
4. Soil erosion by overworking the soil
5. Strip mining – mining coal

Activities:

1. Discuss how God's beautiful world has been and is being destroyed.
2. Explain how you can help "save the planet."
3. Plan a "green" project as a ministry.
4. "It's About Being Green" posters (30 posters) \$8.00  
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