

1- THEME: faith – Why it must be reasoned

2- OBJECTIVE: The child must learn faith is more than just something related to the mystical and emotional areas, because it must be reasoned, and it must be consciously developed in the creature.

3- BIOGRAPHY:

Mt, 7:9 a 11:8 to 13, 16:27; Jo, 8:32 lc, 6:44 and 45: Tg, 2:14 to 20

ESE, cap 19

The consoler )Emmanuel/F.C. Xavier), items 352 to 359

4- CLASS:

a) Initial incentive: Dialogue.

Ask the children if they have ever seen men working with the electrical network of the city, handling wires which must have been naturally previously disconnected.

They probably will answer yes, they have. Next, ask if they think this work would be possible if the men working with the wires did not believe the wires had been properly disconnected. Next, bring the children's attention to the fact we all trust the bus driver, the taxi driver, the airplane pilot, the surgeon, the cook etc. We trust because we know these people were prepared to execute those type of functions. Afterwards, explain to them our trust keeps on increasing as our comprehension of things enhances. Finally, lead the children to conclude nobody lives without believing and believing is faith.

b) Development: Elucidation

Develop the items below, paying attention to adjust the vocabulary to fit the children's level.

In the religious field, to believe means to have faith. This way, when someone says he/she has faith, that means this person believes in god, in Jesus, in the good Spirits, in short, in a sort of higher power, which when solicited, protects us and help us find the strength and clarity to better resolve our problems.

All religions teach faith in a supreme power, creator, the one who sustains life. However, generally speaking, they teach that faith is a virtue which cannot be analyzed by reason, neither by intelligence. They say faith is a natural and spontaneous manifestation of the spirit, and such manifestation it is said, that it has to do with sentiment, that it has nothing to do with reason, common sense or with our comprehension. Some religions state that faith is given by God, as a "grace".

Spiritism teaches us God created all of us with the capacity to develop our faith, for if God had given faith all set and ready for his creatures, then there shouldn't be anyone without faith, otherwise God would not be fair for having distribute faith unfairly amongst his creatures. The Spiritism Doctrine shows us that we are creatures endowed with the capacity for knowledge, comprehension, reasoning. Such capacity makes it possible the development of our faith, real faith, which is born from the sense of understanding. It teaches that unshakeable faith is the one we achieve with our comprehension, not just our emotion senses.

Many people feel touched and emotions when hearing a passage of the life of Jesus or other benefactors of humanity; afterwards they say: "At that moment I felt immense faith; I felt as if I could be able to accomplish real great things." Those people confuse temporary enthusiasm and their emotion with faith. Indeed, emotion is only beneficial to us if controlled. When guided by intelligence, it can be useful, because it is this way it can lead the creature to improve his sensibility. However, if an emotion is not guided by reason, it leads to blind faith, to fanaticism.

The world is full of negative examples of blind faith, of religious fanaticism. So many people, still in our days, injury their own body, whipping themselves until they bleed. Others climb steps on their knees, hurting themselves and putting themselves at risk of getting an infection. Still others, put themselves through terrible deprivations such as locking themselves, and taking vowels of silence, in order to demonstrate their

faith in God! If they used their intelligence, they would come to the realization that what they are offering God does not actually please God, for a merciful God would never be happy with the suffering of his children, like a tyrannical, cruel father would.

The Spiritism Doctrine teaches that we must analyze our emotions, cultivate feelings with balance and intelligence. Thus using our reason so that we can develop the type of faith which never abandons us for it was born from our deep comprehension of things, not just a mere belief, sometimes even childish wish, that God will attend to our fancies, many times, even to the detriment of others.

For this reason, Spiritists don't have the kind of faith God will help their team to win the game for example. The spiritist follower knows that God is also the father of the players of the opposite team. He doesn't have faith that God will make him pass the college entrance exam, for he knows that God is the father of all and by helping him only, God would not be fair with the others. However, in the first case, we can ask God that the game goes on peacefully, that no one gets hurt and the best team wins. In the second case, we can ask God to help us stay calm, so that we can better demonstrate knowledge of what we have learned. Spiritists know not to ask spirits to help, unless, in the sense of helping to remember the things learned. If we ask the spirits for answers it is like cheating. The good spirits, those who are honest, do not cheat or serve in this way.