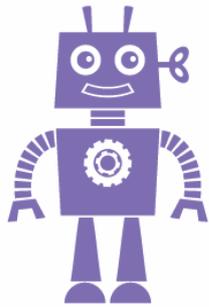


INTRODUCTION TO:

INFINITY KIDS



John 3:16

"God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."

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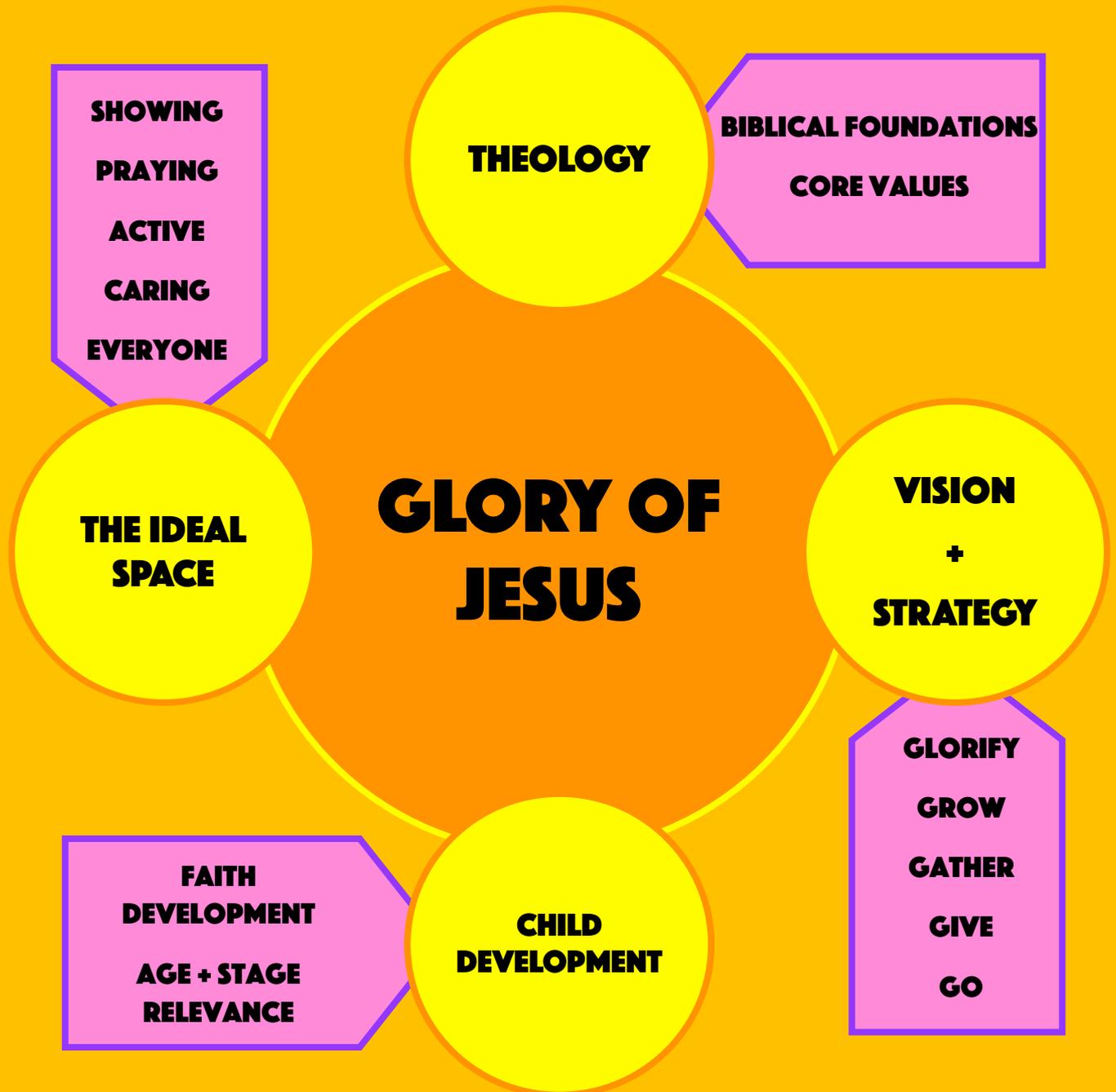
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4 PRINCIPLES OF OUR MINISTRY

These are four essential elements that make up our Infinity Ministry in the effort to Glorify our God through it. While thinking about these, it is vital we remember that all 4 are intricately bound.



(1) THEOLOGY

This element of our ministry looks at the theological foundations and underpinnings of why we do what we do the way that we do it.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS:

GOD: There is one God in whom there are three and equal persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is the creator of everything, infinite, eternal, faithful, all powerful and good. (Matt 28:19, 1 Peter 1:1-2)

THE BIBLE: The Bible is the word of God written by holy people inspired by the Spirit. The Bible is our supreme authority in all matters of faith and godly living. (2 Timothy 3:16 | 2 Peter 1:21)

HUMANKIND: God created humankind in the image of God, and we are unique in all of creation called to live in relationship with our creator, with humanity and as rulers over the rest of creation. (Genesis 1:28 | Psalm 8)

SIN: Every human is by nature sinful, and all of creation suffers the consequences of living in a fundamentally fallen world. In our sinful nature we are all guilty before God and deserving of God's wrath and condemnation. (Romans 3:23 | Ephesians 2:3)

JESUS: Jesus is the Christ, born fully human and fully God, uncorrupted by sin and shared in the struggles and suffering of humanity. Jesus willingly died once for all humankind as our representative and substitute and his sacrifice alone redeems us from the guilt, penalty and power of sin. (John 1:14 | Hebrews 1:1-4 | 1 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 9:25-27)

THE BODILY RESURRECTION: Jesus was crucified and died, rose in bodily form, is the first fruits of those who have died and ascended to the right hand of the Father where He now rules as king. (John 20:26-28 | 1 Corinthians 15:17-21)

SALVATION BY GRACE: Salvation is the free gift of God made possible by the Holy Spirit who compels us to repent and believe the good news about Jesus and our need for salvation. Salvation cannot be earned or made more secure by works but God saves the sinner by grace through faith in Christ alone. (Ephesians 2:10, 2 Peter 1:10-11)

CHRISTIAN LIVING: The Holy Spirit lives in and restores the Christian. The Spirit convicts the Christian of sin, guides the Christian in truth and transforms the mind and conduct of the Christian so they are more like Christ. Christians sin even with the Holy Spirit and this struggle will continue until we are raised perfect with Christ. (Romans 12:1-2 | 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8).

THE CHURCH: As Christians we are all gathered in a community that is in and through Christ. Christians express their relationship together by gathering regularly to worship God in a committed community. (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:11-13 | Hebrews 10:25)

THE END: Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead and establish his new heaven and new earth. (2 Timothy 4:7-9 | Revelation 21:1-4)

OUR STATEMENT OF BELIEF: THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the grave.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHURCH WITH CHILDREN

- The Church in Greek means assembly (Ecclesia). It is not a building of bricks, but rather a building of people.
- The Church is the flock and family of God. (Eph 2:18, 3:15, 4:6 | John 10:16)
- The Church is for children as well as youth and adults. Children contribute something significant, making a real difference. (Luke 18:16-17, Math 21:15-16)
- We will partner with parents in this ministry as we support, supplement and assist parents in their role of planting and nurturing faith in their children. (Josh 24:15, Psalm 78:5-6, Deut 4:14, 6:6-7, 1 Sam 20:42, Ezra 8:21)
- Our aim is to assist children in sharing their faith, expressing Christian love in real ways using their gifts from God. (Eph 6:7, Col 3:24, Rom 12:11)
- A community where children are accepted, supported, instructed and encouraged not only to be the church of tomorrow but to be active members of our church today. (Colossians 3:20)

THEREFORE OUR INFINITY CORE VALUES:

1. PRAYER

In all our ministries we consult God. We pray together as a large team, in our small teams and with the children. We do this to express our complete dependence on God for all things.

2. BIBLE BASED

We use the Bible and approved teaching material each week with the children. Our programs are built with the truths of the bible.

3. MISSION MINDED

We focus on mission through our teaching, letter writing, prayer support and financial assistance. This is in line with great commission we read in the gospels.

4. A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We ensure that our ministries foster a safe and comfortable environment for kids to come and explore the bible and Jesus.

5. LEADER DEVELOPMENT

As we go through life and the process of sanctification, we strive to be better servants of our Lord. Therefore we subject ourselves to regular training and leadership development.

6. A SHARING ENVIRONMENT

We strive to share head to head, heart to heart and life to life. Therefore we remember that we are in ministry with children, not to children.

7. JOYFUL

Serving our Lord faithfully is one of the greatest joys of our life. Therefore we remember at all times the 11th Commandment 'Thou shalt not make thine word a bore'- and we will be careful to abide by it.

(2) VISION + STRATEGY

This element of our ministry looks at firstly the goals of our ministry and secondly, the methods of how we will reach those goals.

INFINITY VISION

Introducing children to Jesus so they will introduce Him to others: Engaged with Jesus through His word and His people with their heads, hearts and hands.

WE WANT TO BE IRRESISTIBLE!

We strive to create an environment that children don't want to miss.

1. We want to be engaging, fun and exciting. We remember that passion and vision are caught rather than taught.
2. We look to connect emotionally- so we aim to get to know you and share our life and faith with you.

THE G'S MODEL IN INFINITY KIDS

We see that the G's helpfully summarise God's purposes for the children here at Menai Anglican. They are not perfect, but we have found them very helpful in summarising just about every purpose God has for children's lives.

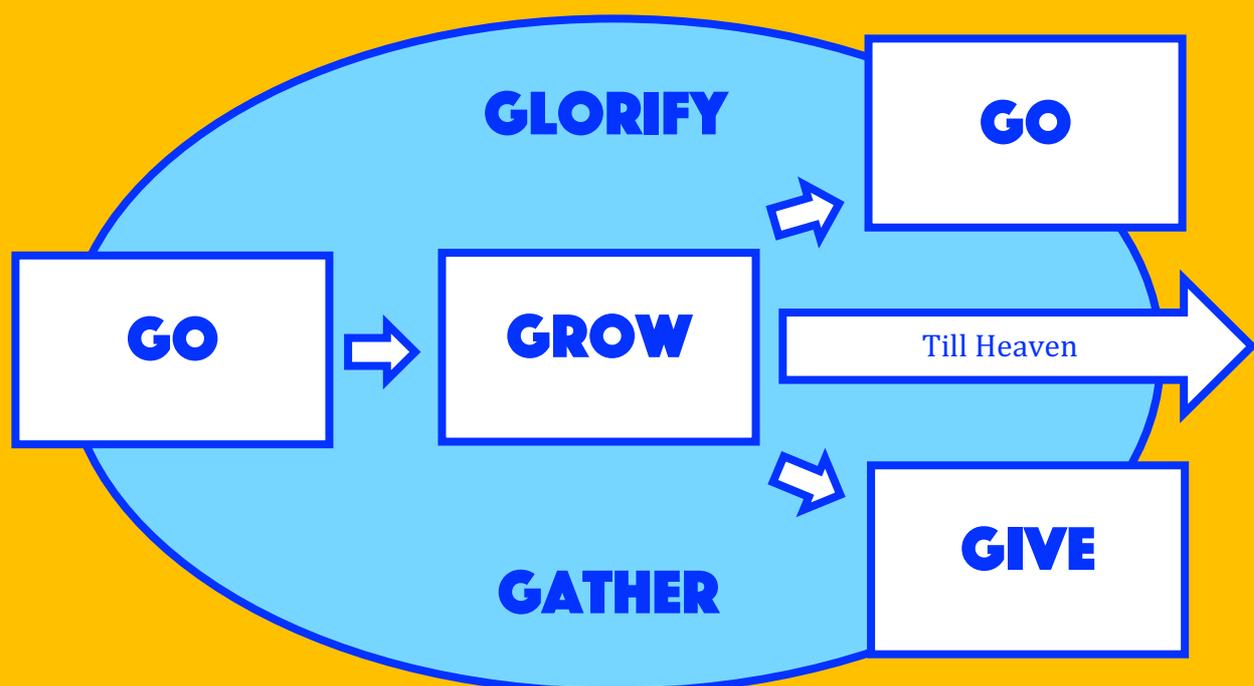
GLORIFY: We want children to be glorifying God in all that we do throughout our programs.

GROW: As a team we will work with families in helping them grow their children as life-long disciples of Jesus.

GATHER: Children gather with the wider church community; therefore our Sunday morning gathering is shaped in a way to allow this to happen. Our other groups are committed to gathering in community around the Word.

GIVE: We aim to help children realise they have gifts from God. We also encourage them, as their gifts are discovered and developed, to give to God and His people.

GO: We aim to equip children to embrace and connect with Jesus and to feel comfortable about going to others to have this relationship with God too.



BRIEF CHARACTER OF OUR LEADERS (Use of the Faithfulness in service doc)

We strive to:

Set a Biblical Example in the Leadership of Youth and Children by being ABOVE REPROACH-

1 Timothy 3:1-10

We do this by:

- 1. Being above reproach in OUR COMMITMENT:** (Heb 10:25) (FIS 4.11, 4.12, 4.13)
- 2. Being above reproach in WHAT WE SAY:** (Eph 5:1-4) (FIS 6.12, 6.21)
- 3. Being above reproach in OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS:** (1 Thess 4:1-8) (FIS 6.18, 7.4, 7.7)
- 4. Being above reproach in OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:** (Matt 18:1-6) (FIS chapter 5)
- 5. Being above reproach in FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** (1 Peter 5:2) (FIS Chapter 8)
- 6. Being above reproach CONCERNING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:** (Gal 5:19-21) (FIS 6.7, 6.8, 6.20)
- 7. Being above reproach in OUR DRIVING:** (Rom 13:1)
- 8. Being above reproach in OUR USE OF THE INTERNET:** (FIS 5.46)
- 9. Being above reproach in OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH SENIOR LEADERS:** (Heb 13:17)
- 10. Being above reproach in DEALING WITH MISTAKES:**

BRIEF COMMITMENTS OF OUR LEADERS

Leaders Handbook will unpack this in more detail.

Every person 16 and over who has access to children MUST:

- 1) Be a Christian.
- 2) Be approved to lead by the children's minister.
- 3) Complete all training and see oneself as a life-long learner.
- 4) Complete the N.S.W. Working with Children Check for volunteers over 18.
- 5) Within 3 months of appointment to a ministry position over 18s must:
 - Be issued a Safe Ministry certificate and hold a current church safe ministry license
 - If after 3 months a person has not completed all the requirements for their safe ministry licence, their appointment is revoked.
- 6) Leaders under 16 years of age are required to complete a Junior course.

Leaders must agree to:

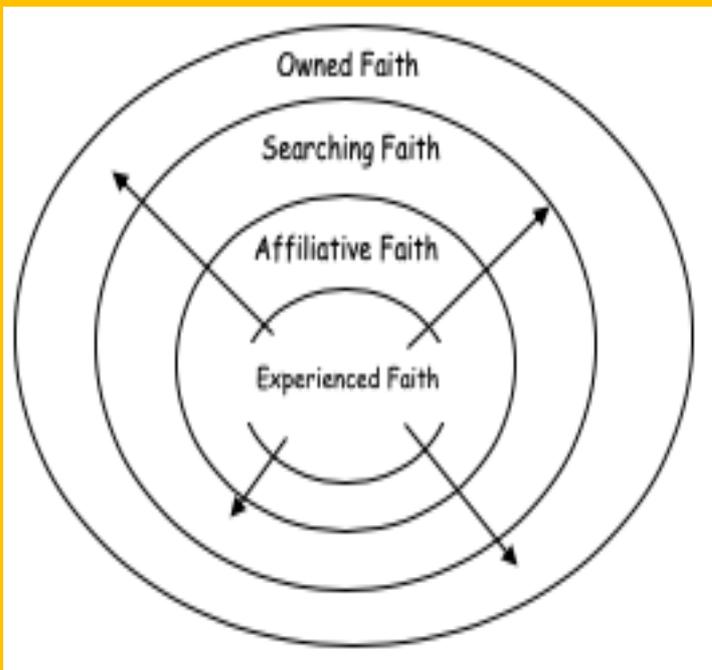
- Attend our quarterly Infinity training and planning meetings (the first Sunday of the school term).
- Attend OUR church regularly.
- Belong to our Infinity team and therefore attend meetings, wear the team t-shirt/attire and be a team player.
- Belong to a growth group (discipleship or bible study group) to pray with and explore the bible with their peers.
- Ensure your details are in on our church data base 'Elvanto'.

(3) CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This element of our ministry looks at the ways in which our children can develop well in their faith.

MODEL OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT

John Westerhoff III describes 4 distinctive styles of faith, each a *generalisation* and not meant to box people into one stage or another.



1. **Experienced Faith**- an active, responding faith of the preschool & early childhood years, which is experienced in the child's relationship to others.
2. **Affiliative Faith**- the 'belonging faith' of the later/childhood/early adolescence, dominated by significant others and their stories, and the authority of a community.
3. **Searching Faith**- common in the late adolescence/early adulthood often conveyed through doubt, criticism, questioning and exploring alternatives.
4. **Owned Faith**- integrates the previous stages into a witnessing faith stance, a new personal faith that is expressed in both word and deed.

Faith is like the rings of a tree. A 3-ringed tree is not better than a complete tree and we expand from one style of faith to another. As our faith develops, each new style is added to the previous one. Encourage not only our children but also the whole community of believers to grow in their faith (which is belief, trust and action) and eagerly anticipate the movement through the 4 stages.

AGE & STAGE RELEVANCE

Stages of Cognitive Development. The theorist, Piaget identified four stages in cognitive development:

1. **Sensorimotor stage (Infancy):** In this period, intelligence is demonstrated through motor activity without the use of symbols. Knowledge of the world is limited (but developing) because it's based on physical interactions/experiences. Children acquire object permanence (memory) at about 7 months of age. Physical development (mobility) allows the child to begin developing new intellectual abilities. Some symbolic (language) abilities are developed at the end of this stage.
2. **Pre-operational stage (Toddler and Early Childhood):** In this period (which has two substages), intelligence is demonstrated through the use of symbols, language use matures, and memory and imagination are developed, but thinking is done in an illogical, irreversible manner. Egocentric (self-centred/self-oriented) thinking predominates.
3. **Concrete operational stage (Elementary and early adolescence):** In this stage (characterised by 7 types of conservation: number, length, liquid, mass, weight, area, volume), intelligence is demonstrated through logical and systematic manipulation of symbols related to concrete objects. Operational thinking develops (mental actions that are reversible). Egocentric thought diminishes.
4. **Formal operational stage (Adolescence and adulthood):** In this stage, intelligence is demonstrated through the logical use of symbols related to abstract concepts. Early in the period there is a return to egocentric thought. Only 35% of high school graduates in industrialised countries obtain formal operations; many people do not think formally during adulthood.

Many pre-school and primary programs are modelled on Piaget's theory, which, as stated previously, provides part of the foundation for constructivist learning. Discovery learning and supporting the developing interests of the child are two primary instructional techniques. It is recommended that parents and teachers challenge the child's abilities, but NOT present material or information that is too far beyond the child's level. It is also recommended that teachers use a wide variety of concrete experiences to help the child learn (e.g., use of manipulatives, working in groups to get experience seeing from another's perspective, field trips, etc).

BIBLE TEACHING WITH CHILDREN

Our Bible teaching with kids involves 3 main parts:

1) OUR EXAMPLE:

1 Timothy 4:11- 13:

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

The faithful way in which we ought to conduct ourselves helps the children see the principles of the bible in action.

2) CHILDREN'S TALKS:

We open the bible and unpack a passage within:

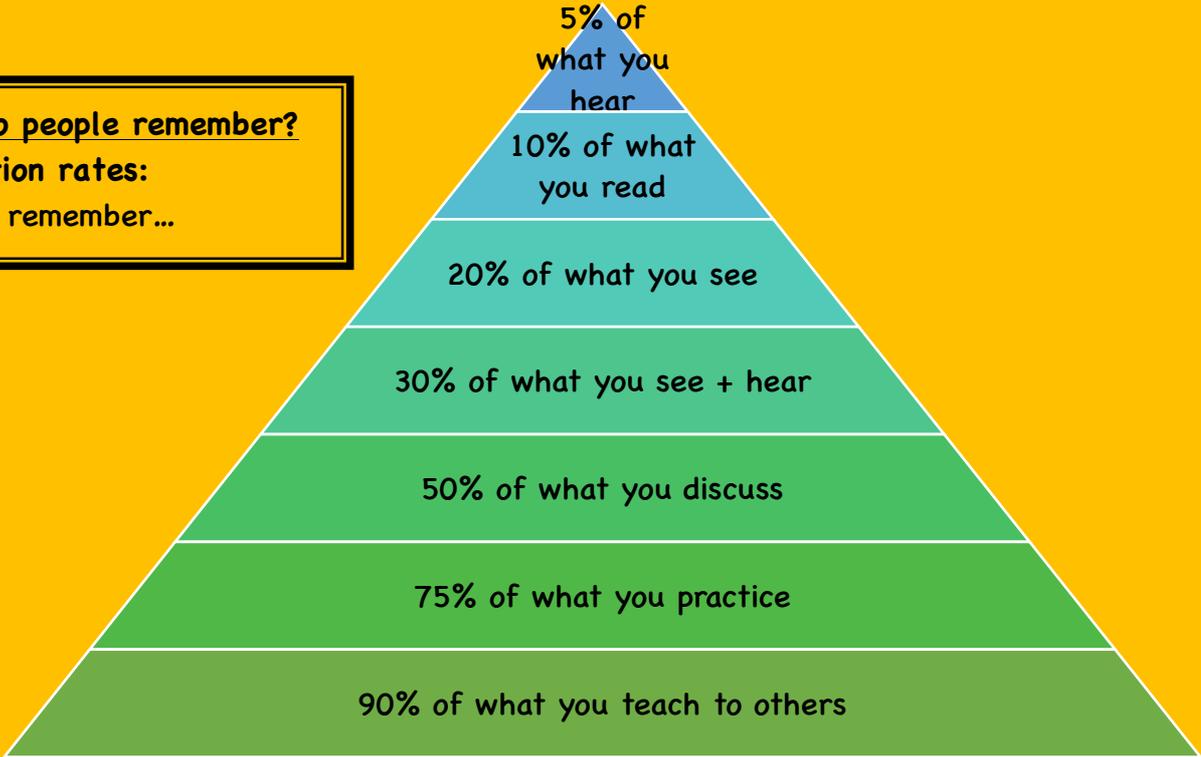
We ensure we DO NOT:

- Teach the Bible as a list of 'dos' & 'don'ts' (moralize).
- Be too complex (use multiple points, has big complicated words, uses sentences that are too long)
- Force a good illustration into fit a passage
- Be too abstract.

We ensure we ARE:

- **Clear** (One talk = one point)
- **Concrete** (The Bible is full of abstract concepts so tell stories to make it more concrete. Stories 'flesh' out the abstract concepts Stories take the abstract and put them into relationship contexts e.g. when doing stories from 'Romans' – look for stories from scripture)
- **Creative** (effective in explaining things in a way that is engaging and fun)

How do people remember?
Retention rates:
We remember...



Learning Styles: 5 senses

1. Hearing (auditory)
2. Seeing (Visual)
3. Smelling
4. Feeling (sensory)
5. Doing (Kinaesthetic)

Therefore we need to recognise that our teaching should involve as many of the senses as we can...

3) SMALL GROUPS (MARY PICKFORD)

We are as HANDS ON as possible – as we tell the story, we encourage the children to use/do the following:

- Playdough (either select a child to mould what you are talking about or give playdough to all the children to mould)
- Drawing (you draw, and they watch, you draw, and they copy, they draw, and you watch etc)
- Construction (either select a child to construct or make what you are talking about or give materials to all the children to construct or make)
- Murals (either select a child to create what you are talking about or give paint to all the children to create their own mural)
- Chalk on footpaths – directed drawing or freestyle in response to what they've heard
- Envelope or a picture hunt (like a treasure hunt, look for the pieces to the story)
- Puzzle creations (give pieces that relate to what you are talking about for them to create a large picture)
- Collage
- Pass the parcel stories
- Walk through re-enactment
- Video them acting out the story and replay it
- Music and movement (e.g. Noah in a boat – sway to music as if rocking on waves)
- Puppets (all children have 1 to act out the story as it is told or a few to take it in turns)

(4) IDEAL SPACE

This element of our ministry looks at developing and fostering a space where children + families can come and explore the gospel of Jesus.

S

SHOWING GOD'S LOVE:

- At all the Infinity ministries at or church, we aim to show love because God loved us first.

P

PRAYING TO GOD:

- At all our Infinity Ministries we aim to pray for and with the kids.

A

ACTIVE IN THE BIBLE

- At all our infinity ministries, we aim to engage with the bible. Not in just a studying and reading it kind of way but by learning how to put it into practice.

C

CHIP IN

- At all our infinity ministries, we aim to assist children in real ways to use their gifts from God.

E

EVERYONE CAN COME

- Including new children at KidSpace into our circle of friends and inviting those who don't know Jesus to know Him and join us at Menai Anglican Church.

INFINITY AT MENAI ANGLICAN

KIDSPACE:

KidSpace is a ministry for children aged 1 through to year 8 at school and operates during the 10am family service on Sunday mornings during school terms.

We have age appropriate bible teaching and activities with our Pre-school aged children (Comets), K-Yr. 5, Yr. 6-8. We sing, pray, learn a Bible verse, play games, make craft and eat yummy food while we learn about God. Our time together is a fun, exciting and interactive time that helps children grow and develop a friendship with Jesus and with each other. Partnering with parents in growing their children to know and love God's is our prime focus.

During school holidays we run a program with a smaller team of leaders and parents.

ALL STARS:

AllStars is our Friday afternoon kids club for those in Kindy to Year 6. There are 2 groups meeting under the one name K-2 and 3-6. K-2 is action packed group whose aims are to introduce children to Jesus through his word through play and age appropriate, hands on teaching. Yrs3-6 has both genders mixing as well as spending time apart. Launching term 1 of 2018 we know that Friday afternoon will see many children being able to invite their friends.

GIRLSPACE

GirlSpace is a fun way to meet other girls and find out more about God and living His way. Our 'Girls only' group is Yr. 3- 6 and runs on Monday afternoons from 5:30-7:00pm during school terms and includes dinner. Each term we have a different theme. We are an energetic team with a passion to serve and minister to the young girls in the 2234 area, sharing with them the love of our Saviour and King Jesus.

BOYSACE:

BoySpace is for young men in Yrs. 3-6 and runs at the same time as GirlSpace on Mondays 5:30-7pm. At BoySpace we have a great time enjoying eating dinner together, playing sport and games, wrestling, breaking things and rebuilding them, learning that 'Jesus is the Only Way'. This fun, interactive way of learning will have a great impact on their lives. BoySpace aims to help boys develop a friendship with God while having a great time hanging out with other boys and being led by male leaders from our church.

PLAYSPACE:

PlaySpace is a group for mums, dads, grandparents and carers and their babies (0-preschool age). They meet on Mondays (grandparents' group) Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings 10am-12noon. At PlaySpace children have heaps of fun playing dress-ups, jumping on our jumping castle, riding bikes, singing songs, having a Bible story, and enjoying their morning tea.

HOLIDAY CLUB + SUMMERFEST

Both events are fun-filled jam-packed three-day events. This year we will be run Summerfest in January 9am-12pm and HC in October 9am-3pm. Here the children will encounter dramas each day and see how they relate to our awesome God. We will sing, create, play outrageous games and eat yummy food! Both events end with the big finale on 'SUPER SUNDAY', showcasing the children and ending the story with a big bang!