

## 1. Intro How to use these training lessons

Please read this letter before using these lessons. This explanation will help you to use our materials more effectively.

Dear friend,

Greetings to all of you who teach children's or youth ministries, or who want to learn how. My name is Mama Lorella, International Co-Director, with my husband, of Every Child Ministries. I hope this book will be a help to you. I wrote it because I long to see you begin to reach out and teach the children all around you in your neighborhood, in your church, and in your village, so that they will know God's Word. God has given me the great privilege of teaching children the Word of God for over 35 years now. I pray that God will also give you strength and courage for this great work.

How should you use these lessons? In this book, we at ECM ask three things of you:

1. First, read the lesson very carefully.
2. Second, think about what you are reading.
3. Third, write in responses to all the questions we ask.

From time to time, you will notice a line like this ..... or like this \_\_\_\_\_. Every time you see such a line, stop reading. Think about the question we are asking you. Write your own response in this book. Afterwards, you may start reading again. Many times, you will be able to see how your response compares with our ideas. At the end of every chapter, we ask you to review the main teachings you have been reading. We also ask you to do some practice exercises. Our goal is not just that you learn facts and ideas. Our goal is rather that you LEARN IDEAS and PRACTICE USING THEM. It will bring us great joy if you will do that!

If you are following this book in a training seminar or a class, you should do the chapters in whatever order your teacher presents them. If you are studying the book on your own, however, study one or two chapters every week. Begin right away to put into practice the ideas you are learning. Even though you may not yet know how to do everything, work hard at putting into practice the things you do understand. Each week, you will gain new understanding and add new concepts and techniques. Every week your teaching will improve. By the time you have completed this book, you should be ready to begin to teach children in fellowship with your local church. It is good from time to time to review a chapter or two again so as to remember all you have learned. You also can review again any chapters about issues you are finding difficult in your teaching experience. Try constantly to make your teaching better and better.

If you have become a teacher of children or youth, you should understand clearly that it is the church of Jesus Christ that you are serving. As a Sunday school teacher or other kind of youth leader, you are not a worker for Every Child Ministries. Every Child Ministries is only a servant of the church, helping in the specific areas of training leaders and teachers and developing and distributing teaching materials. Every local church has authority over its own Sunday school and over all of its youth programs. Every Child Ministries does not have that authority. Work hard at obeying and respecting the leadership of your own church, for they have been chosen by God to lead His people. Your Sunday school reports must go to the church, because Sunday school is a program of the church.

If enough teachers are trained in your village or your local church, you may discuss with your church leadership the possibility of using some of them to start cell groups in outlying areas. God is not greatly honored if people in some places do not learn of God's Word, because all of God's people are stuck together and remain clustered together in one place.

God bless you and help you in this great work! On the day when you will stand before Jesus Christ, may many children be found following you there, saying, "We are here in heaven because we repented of our sins and received Christ as Savior through your teaching!"

Your Friend, Mama Lorella