

A devotional excerpt from God in My Classroom

A Wonderful Opportunity

My wife and I waited five years to adopt Bradley. Then we went to Africa. Bradley died there at age five from a fever that had also taken the life of one of his friends.

I stayed in the hospital for a month with Bradley. I watched the rigors of the periodic high fevers, slowly take their toll on his body. When the fevers would suddenly shoot up to 105° and 106°, the doctors would pack Bradley in ice the missionaries in the area supplied.

One January morning, Bradley said to me, "Don't let them put me in ice because Jesus is coming today." I looked at him quietly and touched his shoulder without saying a word. At 7:30 that evening, a nurse took his vitals and said, "Your son is dying." I put my head next to the oxygen tent and heard Bradley say in a heavy whisper, "Jesus is coming now." In a few moments, Jesus did come.

Why tell you about this? Because someone had a wonderful opportunity to raise Bradley as God's child. I credit his mother for much of this. She never let a day end without talking to Bradley about God, telling him Bible stories, and praying with him. Oh, I taught him too, but I wasn't always there. Because of my wife's diligent instruction, God became a wonderful personal friend of Bradley's. God helped Bradley in his final illness, and Jesus took Bradley to be with Him in heaven.

You have the same wonderful opportunity and responsibility to educate the children in your class about God. As a teacher, be willing to share your faith. Let children see and hear what Jesus means to you. Take time to talk plainly about your relationship with God. Let children hear you pray in the classroom. Allow children to express their faith and let them lead prayers. Make devotions a highlight in your classroom. Use God's Word to set the mood and feeling for the day, and then give your students the opportunity to express that spirit throughout the day.

Though you will never hear it, some day your former students, led by God's Holy Spirit, may confidently say, "Jesus is coming now."

God's Words of Encouragement

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us-yes, establish the work of our hands. *Psalms 90:17*

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits-who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns

you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. *Psalm 103:2-5*

It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn Your decrees. *Psalm 119:71*

The LORD will keep you from all harm-He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. *Psalm 121:7-8*

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. *1 Peter 4:10*

Only hold on to what you have until I come. *Revelation 2:25*

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." ... "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" *Revelation 19:7-9*

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

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