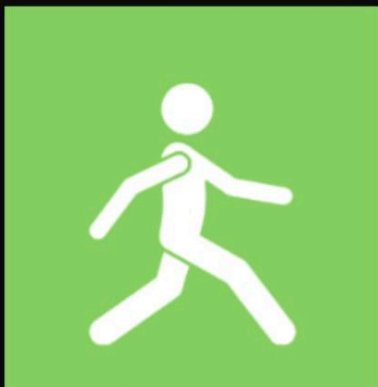


CALLED TO VISION

WEEK 5
KIDS MINISTRY

connect group notes



FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end.

TOPIC : Called to Vision - Kid's Ministry

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TIME TO PONDER:

Children play a crucial part of what we as Outlook are called to do. They are our future and our desire is that they participate in every area of the life of the church. This leaves us a crucial task to bring them through and open doors for

them to walk into what God has called them to do.

Luke 2:36-38

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

We can see how much God values adults who pray for children. From the passage above we see how God even gave Jesus a praying granny.

Praying grannies (all adults for that matter) are the most powerful force in the world. As such let

us be aware of the part we all have to play in raising the next generation.

Luke 2:46-52

When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Question 1: Have you ever considered the importance of your role in bringing through the next generation?

TIME TO DISCUSS:

What is our responsibility as a church?

We are tasked to prepare our church kids for adulthood. We are not called to entertain children but find ways to nurture them into their calling.

We (Outlook Church) received a specific prophetic word along these lines , that the children would bring their parents to the Lord. That the children would be going out in ministry teams to impact the nations. This is why it is essential that we equip our children for this task.

Why is Kids Ministry so important?

Most people commit their lives to the Lord before the age of 14, we need to make sure we are reaching and impacting those age groups.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

We can trust God to keep our children safe when they get older, if we have laid a good foundation on the Word of God in their lives.

We need to realise that the world is not silent on most issues, teaching them all the wrong things. We need to prepare them for all that the world is going to throw at them.

Young kids can handle deep Theology. We need to get it into them. Kids Ministry is a great place for this to happen. However as parents the onus is on you to provide a good Biblical foundation.

What is our collective church responsibility?

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

We need to listen to the children, learn from them. Make sure they can come to church and meet with Jesus. We need to realise not all children have believing parents. Or they may have been exposed to only a boring example of church.

We are to support parents in the discipleship role. We get to be key influences. Statistics tell us that as a child grows up they will have five key influences in their lives. Let Kids ministry teachers or you as a church member be one of those.

We may even get to take a parenting role in children's lives who don't have parents.

Church is not just the adults' playground. It takes a village to raise a child. We need to be aware that sometimes it's easier for a child to speak to other parents than to talk to their own.

Question 2: Do you find children come to you for advice? Are you loving and listening to them?

TIME TO REFLECT

Matthew 18:6-7

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!”

As parents and grandparents we have the greatest influence on the morality of our children. We need to realise that our marriage and lives will be modelled by our children.

- Take daily devotions with your kids seriously.
- Dining room table discussions are crucial for good discipleship and interaction with your kids.
- Ask your kids what they learnt at Kids Ministry.

- Parents lead your kids to church, not the other way around.
- Model a passion for Jesus.
- Parents let your home be open for other kids to come to. A safe place.
- Parents discipline your children.

Remember children today are facing a very different world to the one we faced. Parents go find your kids. Get involved in their passions. Let them know they are loved.

Question 3: When last did you make time to spend with your child, giving them your full attention? What are you going to do about it?

Matthew 3:16-17

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was

opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Make sure that your children know the love of the Heavenly Father and that He is pleased with them. Make sure they know that you love them too. Not based on what they have done, but merely who they are.

ACTION STEP

What do we want our children at Outlook to be doing?

- We want our children to shine their light from a young age.
- Get them active in serving from a young age.

- We want to see the Holy Spirit poured out on them.
- More opportunities for them to share their faith.

So let's be a proactive church. We need more people (especially men) involved in the Children's Ministry.

Let's create that safe place for children to talk.

Let's set an example worthy of our Saviour.

Let's not limit what God can do through them.

Let's open doors for them to minister.