

**Building A Healthy Children's Ministry**  
**A Workshop By Russell Smith**

**I. Why Should We Minister To Children**

**A. Children MATTER to God**

- a. **Matthew 18:1-6**
- b. **Mark 10:13-16**

**B. Children are a GIFT FROM GOD**

- a. **Psalm 127:3**
- b. **Proverbs 17:6**

**C. God COMMANDS us to REACH and TEACH children**

- a. **Teach them CONSTANTLY (Deuteronomy 6:3-9)**
- b. **Teach them CHARACTER (Proverbs 20:11)**
- c. **Teach them COMMITMENT (Proverbs 22:6)**
- d. **Teach them with CORRECTION (Proverbs 23:13)**

**D. Children can have SIGNIFICANT SPIRITUAL IMPACT in this WORLD and in the lives of PEOPLE**

- a. **Parents/Family**
- b. **Other children**
- c. **Church**
- d. **Community**

**E. Children face significant SPIRITUAL and EMOTIONAL battles daily**

- a. **Peer Pressure**
- b. **Self Esteem Issues**
- c. **Temptations of every kind**
- d. **Fear**
- e. **Loneliness & Rejection**
- f. **Violence**
- g. **Guilt & Shame**
- h. **Hatred**
- i. **Bitterness**

## **II. How Should We Minister To Children**

### **A. Create the right ATMOSPHERE**

#### **a. Atmosphere of LOVE & ACCEPTANCE**

- i. Matthew 10:40-42**
- ii. Mark 10:13-16**

#### **b. Atmosphere of WORSHIP (Matthew 21:12-17)**

- i. Worship through SINGING**
- ii. Worship through GIVING**
- iii. Worship through PRAYER**
- iv. Worship through GOD'S WORD**
- v. Worship through OBEDIENCE**

#### **c. Atmosphere for the SUPERNATURAL**

- i. Salvation (Matthew 18:3)**
- ii. Prayer (Matthew 21:13)**
- iii. Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39)**
- iv. Healing (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)**
- v. Miracles (John 6:1-15)**

#### **d. Atmosphere of FUN**

##### **i. Services/Classes**

- 1. Games**
- 2. Music**
- 3. Characters**
- 4. Puppets**
- 5. Object lessons**
- 6. Multimedia**
- 7. Decor**

##### **ii. Big/Special events**

- 1. Carnivals**
- 2. Field Trips**
- 3. Summer Camp**
- 4. Family Activities**

### **B. Concentrate on what KIDS NEED MOST**

- a. Godly PURPOSE - Their life has meaning and that purpose can only be found in God through intense prayer, consistent Bible study, lifestyle worship, and wise counsel**

- i. **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**
  - b. **Godly PASSION** - We need model, instill, and ignite tremendous excitement and energy for God. Help kids imagine that being devoted to anything else in life is worthless.
    - i. **1 Timothy 4:12**
  - c. **Godly PERSEVERANCE** - Teach kids to rely on Him regardless of the circumstances. Knowing with certainty what our life's purpose is enables us to muster the mental, moral, and spiritual strength and self-confidence to keep moving ahead toward the fulfillment of what really matters.
    - i. **Hebrews 12:1-3**
  - d. **Godly POWER** - Kids need to know that they can accomplish great and amazing things through the power of the Holy Spirit - things they could not possibly do on their own; things that do not happen naturally but supernaturally
    - i. **Acts 1:8**
  - e. **Godly PLEASURE** - When we are doing God's will and doing it the way He has intended it for us, we will find a level of fulfillment unlike any we could otherwise experience in life.
    - i. **Psalm 37:3-4**
  - f. **Godly PEOPLE** - Parents, pastors, teachers, leaders, encouragers - people who influence their lives for the good!
- C. Our responsibility as a church is to REACH children so they do not have to be RESCUED!**
- D. Psalm 127:3-5**
- a. **What good are ARROWS if there are no WARRIORS?**
  - b. **As warriors, we must...**
    - i. **Teach our children how to RECOGNIZE the enemy**
    - ii. **EQUIP our children with spiritual WEAPONS necessary for battle**
    - iii. **TRAIN our children how to stand and to fight COURAGEOUSLY**