

Children's Worker Session – March 2010

The Light Kid's Conference

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How did David get to be David? How in the world was he able to, at a young age, take on such responsibility, have the favor of the Lord, trust in God to fight the battles, make wise decisions, and be willing to follow God?

Based on David's younger years, how might we apply some of the principles to our own ministry to children and the next generation?

1) Help the children, when they are young, in skills, talents, abilities.

- a. David was gifted in areas, but had the privilege of being able to spend time learning it. His schedule may have been full, but it wasn't so full that the important things didn't suffer.
- b. Never underestimate who God might be calling and working with – God looks at the heart.
- c. Help them to try lots of things so they can discover what they might become, what they are good at. Awaken in them their God given gifts.
- d. Most of this comes from the home, but the church can also help by inviting kids to do things they may have never done before.

2) Give them opportunities to experience, serve, grow – both big and small.

- a. Jesse sent his son, David, on a seemingly mundane task: taking food to his brothers.
- b. But when he arrived with the food for his brothers, he had the opportunity to fight the giant – the king sent him off to do just that.
- c. The story would have been different had David just gone home and told the story about the giant. Kids need to live it.

3) Don't dress them in your armor and your style of fighting.

- a. Your way of doing things is good in the way God has fitted and designed you.
- b. The next generation will have another way of "wearing" God's faithfulness.
- c. This applies to styles of learning, styles of worship, styles of teaching, styles of experiencing, styles of communicating, and styles of dealing with issues.

4) Talk it, Live it, Pass it Down

- a. David's grandmother was Ruth, the lady that bravely left her own country and gods to follow her mother in law, even though she didn't have to.
- b. Because of this Ruth began to follow the one true God.
- c. David came from a long line of people who lived it with stories of God's faithfulness
- d. God, God's power, God's grace, God's victory, God's faithfulness is always on our lips.
- e. Continue the heritage or begin it.

Providing opportunities for children to explore skills, talents and abilities:

- *give them jobs*
- *assign bite sized roles*
- *provide musical lessons – at any level at your church*
- *provide other opportunities for kids to engage in craft and ministry – special classes, break out group, one shot Saturdays in puppets, art, drama, video, website, photography, dance, mime, cooking, hair, cleaning, painting, and wood working, etc. Pray for people to lead these things.*
- *utilize drama and art (delegate creative leadership)*
- *utilize puppets*
- *invite older kids to help serve younger kids*
- *get kids involved in missions*
- *give kids chances to be involved meaningfully in the church, in worship, in ministry, in mission – ushers, leading younger kids, helping in VBS, taking them on day long mission trips, making cards for nursing home residents, etc.*
- *highlight when kids have experienced good stuff – share it through notes, email, newsletters, bulletin boards, videos.*

Give them opportunities to experience, serve, grow – both big and small.

- *have some jobs that are divided up each week during children's meetings – technology, line leaders, assistance, snacks, TV operator, etc.*
- *invite older kids to help serve younger kids*
- *get kids involved in missions*
- *give kids chances to be involved meaningfully in the church, in worship, in ministry, in mission – ushers, leading younger kids, helping in VBS, taking them on day long mission trips, making cards for nursing home residents, etc.*
- *pray for obvious opportunities for kids to grow and plug into the ministry.*

Don't dress them in your armor and your style of fighting.

- *styles and ministries change, though the message is the same*
- *reaching friends of the kids has to be done in the way that is most natural to the kids*
- *styles of learning are different than they used to be*
- *technology, as a way of learning is important. Begin to utilize it and begin to develop / invite people to help you utilize it.*
- *communication with families and parents has to be top priority – we go to them and make it as easy as possible (to register, plan dates, etc).*

Talk it, Live It, Pass it Down

- *upkeep for your devotional life and discipleship*
- *purposefully include God stories and language in your everyday vocabulary.*
- *share your story of faith – perspective you had as a child, stories from your childhood or when you became a believer, etc.*
- *begin (or beef up) a heritage of loving God in your home – with your kids and grandkids.*
- *make traditions before trips, when people come to your home, etc to pray before or after – in a certain way, certain spot.*
- *invite your volunteers over to your house for dinner for the purpose of fellowship and also so that they can see your home and faithfulness.*
- *get around people who help you in living a life of faithfulness.*
- *take notice of the spirit of the Lord and the work of the spirit.*