

Children's Ministry

A strong children's ministry is vital not only for churches but also for our communities. Not only does it strengthen the entire church body and society, but it also ensures a brighter future for the individual child. By reaching children in the community, churches and communities grow from the outside, welcoming new families now and then

Here are a few reasons why children's ministry matters:

1. **Children Matter to God and the community:** Jesus emphasized the importance of children. They matter not only for their future potential but also for who they are today. Mark 10:13-16 highlights this perspective.
2. **Effective Learning About God:** Children thrive through relationships with living, caring Christians who set an example. Spiritual formation in volunteers plays a crucial role.
3. **Foundation for talent exploration, growth, and development:** A strong children's ministry sets a foundation for talent exploration, nurturing, and affirmation from a young age. It encourages children to share their gifts and talents with the world and welcomes everyone, regardless of family background

As Action Five, we put our efforts where children have the most impact and we have always believed that place to be within children's ministry.

While many people view children's ministry as mainly a place to keep the kids occupied when the more important work happens with the adults in the congregation, we challenge the bodies and individuals to rethink children's ministry because of the 4 to 14 window.

The 4 to 14 window is a term used to describe the age when people are most likely to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior

Statistics show that 63% of the people chose to follow Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14 yet after the age of 18 years old, the number of faith decisions made drop drastically.

Kids Need to Be Taught About God Early in Life

There's a widespread opinion that children shouldn't receive religious instruction, as they're believed to be too young to choose for themselves, and that we should let them figure it out on their own someday.

However, would you propose to parents that they not teach children about personal hygiene or healthy eating until they're older? What about safe practices like riding a bike with a helmet, or how to have good manners, communication skills, empathy for others, and the ability to forgive? Would you also wait to let them figure these things out on their own when they become adults? Of course not!

Just as you would slowly teach a child math or how to write, so should a child be slowly instructed on who God is and of the love of Jesus. Childhood is the time of life when all good habits and attitudes are formed, and it's neglectful to not parent a child well in *all* areas of life—the physical, social, emotional, mental, *and* spiritual.

After all, even very young children experience deep, heart-issue dilemmas such as what to do with guilty feelings after doing wrong, what makes them valuable or significant, and what life is really all about. While still adolescents, they begin to wonder what happens to people after they die, and ask questions like “Does God exist? Can I know God?” or “Why do bad things happen?” These are big questions and ones worthy of an answer.

We need to start instilling the answers into young kids early—preferably within that 4 to 14 window—the same way we teach kids any other important aspect of life. Children's ministry is just one way to help impact children with the love of Jesus when they need it most.

The fact that 63% of people who decide to become a disciple of Jesus do so within the 4 to 14 window is not surprising. Childhood—especially between the ages of 4 and 14—are the years when one's priorities, attitudes, and beliefs about life are shaped.

Like the Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, “train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Maybe you're doing a great job with your child around spiritual instruction. But what about the 82% of kids who are hearing little to nothing about the love of Jesus?

This is where Action Five Kids Ministry helps impact kids in the 4 to 14 window with the assurance of salvation by creating different programs that share the love of Christ, develop talents and build moral capacity in a unique yet impactful way