



# THREE-DAY TWELVE

A three-day training for those guiding  
children around the world to follow Jesus  
like the twelve disciples



## VOLUME II PARTICIPANT NOTES

Part of the 1for50 family  
of training resources

Revised February 2020





## A Three-Day Training for Children's Workers

What if every child in every community had someone to reach, disciple and empower them to become an influential Kingdom Champion? This is the dream of the 1for50 Movement. And we believe it's possible, because this is God's dream, not ours.

This three-day 1for50 training is designed to equip children's ministry teachers and leaders. After completion of this training, participants will possess a strong biblical foundation for children's ministry and have practical teaching skills to effectively reach, disciple and empower children in their church, community outreach program, or NGO.

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### Table of Contents

	PAGE
Jesus' Heart for Children	3
What is 1for50?	6
Jesus and the Children's Leader	9
Characteristics of Children	13
Building Relationships with Children	17
Preparing to Teach Children	20
Helping Children Grow as Disciples	22
The Learning Process	26
Helping Children Engage with God's Word	28
Empowering Children to be Kingdom Champions	31
Engaging Families	36
Sharing the Gospel with Today's Children	40
Talking with Children About Following Jesus	44
Building Bridges of Outreach	49
Building God's Kingdom Together	53
Invitation to Join the Movement	56
Evaluation	58

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### You will need (In addition to these Participant Notes):

- Bible
- Pens or pencils and extra paper to take notes

## Jesus' Heart for Children

It may seem like investing in children is too costly, but God's heart is for every child to know him and to follow him for their entire lives.

### Our World Today

There are \_\_\_\_\_ billion children in our world today.

What are some of the challenges these children face?



How does this information make you feel? How do you think it makes God feel?

### What Did Jesus Say About Children?

Read **Matthew 18:1-14**. List several truths Jesus taught his disciples about children.

God is not willing for children to be lost.

If the shepherd was willing to go looking for just ONE sheep, what might he be willing to do – and want us as his followers to do – about so many who need to be found?

**Matthew 18:14**

Your Father in heaven is not willing that one of these little ones should perish.

Read **Mark 10:13-15**. How did Jesus respond when his disciples tried to send the children away?

## Discover God's Heart for Children

God wants children:



1. To \_\_\_\_\_ God (**2 Peter 3:9**)
  - To help children make a decision to follow Christ as their Savior.
  - Story of the Lost Sheep (God is not willing that even one of these little ones should perish)



2. To \_\_\_\_\_ God (**Mark 12:30**)
  - To help children grow a personal relationship with Christ, loving God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.
  - Story of David (a man after God's own heart)



3. To \_\_\_\_\_ together (**Romans 12:5**)
  - To welcome and invite children to belong and function as part of the Body of Christ, learning to love one another.
  - Story of Timothy (he grew in faith as if he were Paul's son)



4. To \_\_\_\_\_ God (**1 Timothy 4:12; Matthew 5:16**)
  - To teach children to live lives of obedience, making choices that honor God.
  - Story of Daniel (he chose to follow God's ways, even in an ungodly nation)



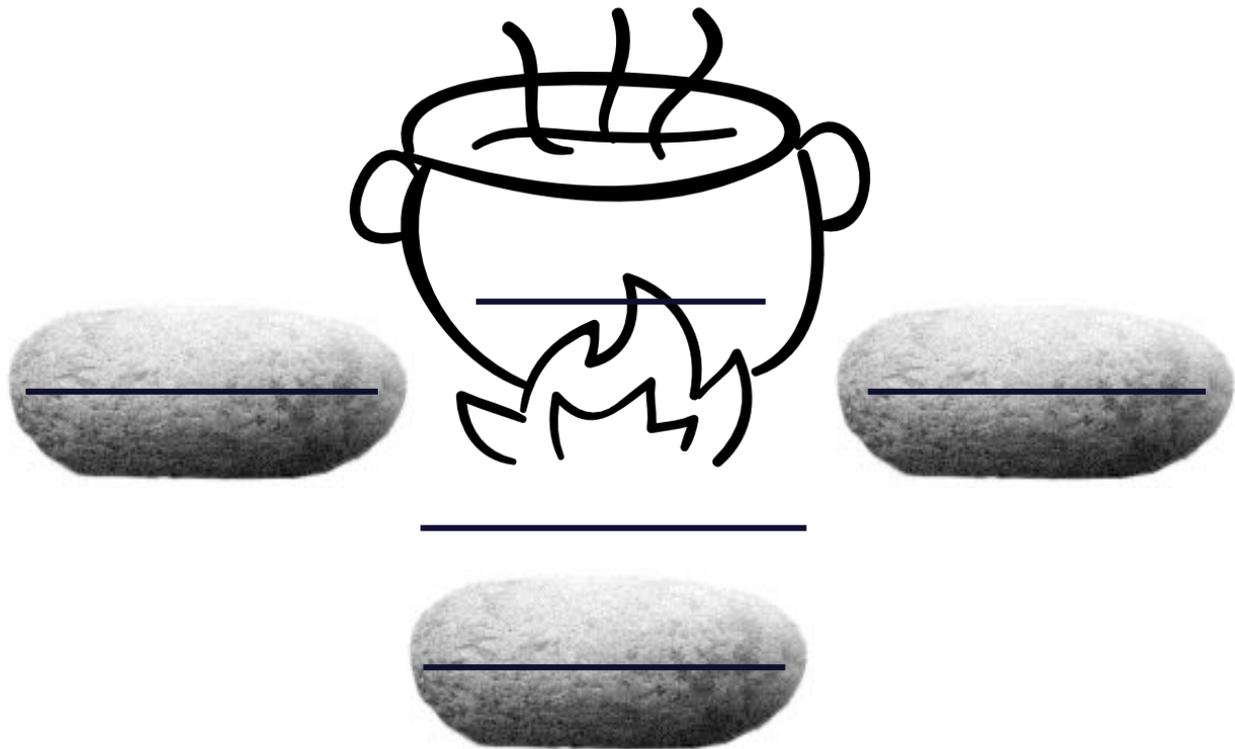
5. To \_\_\_\_\_ God (**1 Peter 4:10**)
  - To help children learn how to serve and grow in gifts.
  - Story of Joseph (he served faithfully at home, in captivity, in prison and finally in Pharaoh's palace)

Together, all of these desires become a focus on \_\_\_\_\_.

Is this the vision and heart that you have for the children in your sphere of influence?

## Preparing to Work with Children

Our ministry to children can be compared to a three-stone cooking fire.



### Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. Is Jesus' heart for children also your heart for children? What might God be asking you to think or do differently as a result of what you have learned in this lesson?
2. What is one new thing you learned about God's heart for children? What next steps could you take to apply what you have learned?
3. We learned that Bible knowledge, skills and servant leadership are all important as we prepare to work with children. Which area needs strengthening so that all of your "stones" are balanced? What steps could you take to strengthen that area?





## What is 1for50?

### The 1for50 Dream

What if every child in every community had someone to reach, disciple and empower them to become an influential Kingdom Champion?

### The 1for50 Mission

The mission of 1for50 is to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ unreached children with the life-changing love of Jesus,
- \_\_\_\_\_ children to know and follow Jesus for a lifetime and
- \_\_\_\_\_ children to become influential Kingdom champions in their own families, communities and beyond.

### The 1for50 Efforts

To accomplish this mission, 1for50 focuses on three main efforts:

- We \_\_\_\_\_ local leaders to reach and disciple children.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ leaders with one another and help them to work together.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ leaders with relevant tools and ideas to reach, disciple and empower the next generation.

## The 1for50 Hand



## The Great Commission and Children

Read **Matthew 28:19-20**. Does the Great Commission include children?

### **Matthew 28:19-20**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

How is the Church is like a car?





## **Action Steps**

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. The 1for50 dream is that every child in every community would have someone to reach, disciple and empower them to become an influential Kingdom Champion. Who do you know who needs to hear this vision? How can you share it with them?
  
2. The 1for50 Hand covers seven key areas for effective children's ministry. Which of these seven areas are the strongest in your children's ministry? Which areas do you need to give attention to and improve?
  
3. Is children's ministry in your church one of the four wheels or is it like a spare tire in the trunk of the car? What is God saying to you about this?

# Jesus and the Children's Leader

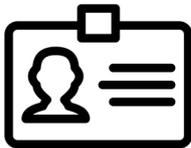
## What's Inside?

Examine the plastic bag. How is this bag similar to a children's leader/teacher?

The character, attitudes and love for Christ that we have inside our hearts is very important if we desire to make a lasting spiritual influence in the lives of children.

## Ministry of a Children's Leader

What does the Bible teach us about the ministry of a teacher or leader of children?



1. It is a \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:11-12

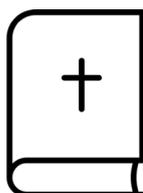
James 3:1



2. A leader guides and directs students to learn \_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 4:9

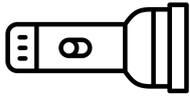
Proverbs 22:6



3. A leader is entrusted to share the \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 10:14

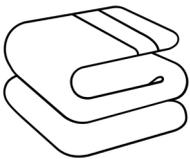
1 Thessalonians 2:4



4. A leader helps \_\_\_\_\_ Bible truth  
and \_\_\_\_\_ it to students' lives.

Nehemiah 8:8

Matthew 13:52

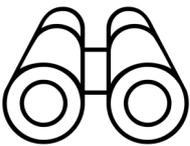


5. A leader \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 10:16

John 13:13-14, 34

Philippians 2:5-7



6. A leader imparts \_\_\_\_\_  
for a student's future in Christ.

Jeremiah 29:11

Ephesians 3:17-18

Thinking of all these responsibilities and qualities required in a children's leader might overwhelm us as we begin to prepare for work with children. Who will help us carry the load?



## The Vine and the Branches

Read **John 15:5** and **John 15:16**. Circle key words and phrases describing the relationship and the reward of being connected to the vine.



### **John 15:5**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

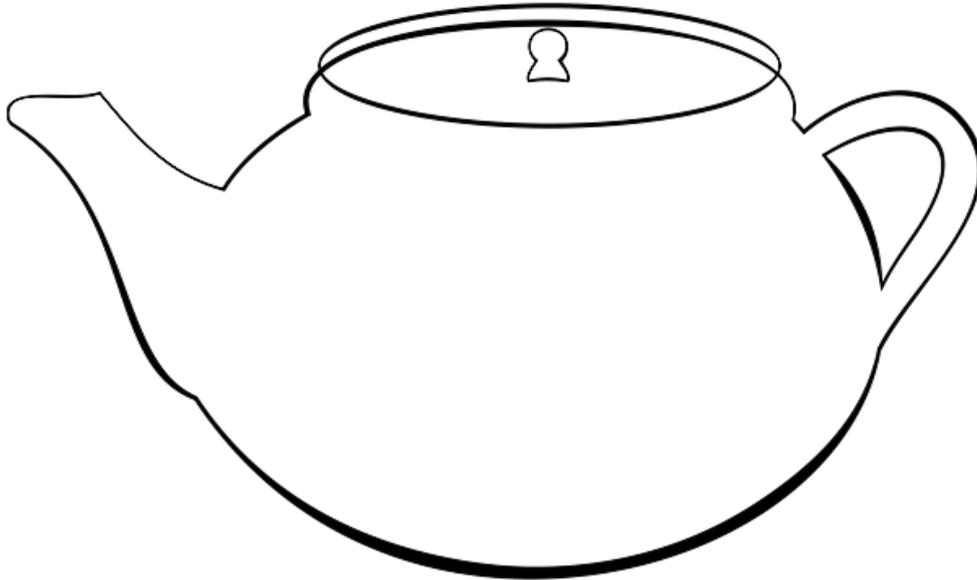
### **John 15:16**

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

1. How do we “remain” in Christ?
2. What are the obstacles to staying close to Christ and how do we overcome them?
3. What is your greatest obstacle?

## Lessons from the Teapot

Our lives as children's leaders are like a teapot. List several ways in which children's leaders are like a teapot.



While we might come to believe that our intelligence, preparation or creative gifts are the things that are needed by God, we soon realize that these cannot be useful to God without the attitudes of dependence and humility, just like a teapot in the hands of its owner.

## Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. What is something new you learned about being a children's leader?  
How can you implement this idea to make your children's ministry stronger?
  
2. What ideas or practices will you start or strengthen to help you abide in Christ?



# Characteristics of Children

## How Did God Create Children?

Read **Psalm 139:13-16**. What does this Scripture teach us about how God created children?

## Four Parts of a Child

How are children and adults different?

Read **Luke 2:52**. In what four ways did Jesus grow?

**Luke 2:52**  
And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

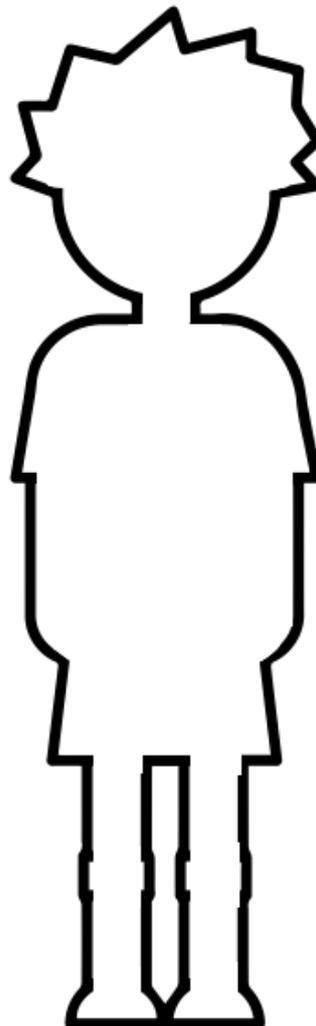
God created all people, including children, to grow in these four ways:

**MENTAL**  
"in wisdom"  
Knowledge, learning and understanding

**PHYSICAL**  
"in stature"  
Seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching

**SPIRITUAL**  
"in favor with God"  
Experiencing and responding to God

**SOCIAL/  
EMOTIONAL**  
"in favor with man"  
Relationships, emotions and personality





## Characteristics of Children at Different Ages

	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Mental</b>	<b>Social-Emotional</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
Very young children (2-4 years old)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They love to touch, feel, move.</li> <li>• They get tired easily.</li> <li>• They cannot play most kids' games well yet.</li> <li>• They are growing rapidly.</li> <li>• They have limited muscle control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They don't know how to read.</li> <li>• They can only remember short phrases.</li> <li>• They need us to use simple words.</li> <li>• They have a short attention span.</li> <li>• They are curious and love to learn new things.</li> <li>• Literal-minded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They do not understand winning/losing.</li> <li>• They play best side-by-side. They may not be good at sharing.</li> <li>• Parents are the most important people in their lives.</li> <li>• They express intense emotions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They can understand basic truth about God's love for them.</li> <li>• They can understand the difference between right and wrong.</li> <li>• They can recognize their need for forgiveness and respond to Christ as Savior.</li> </ul>
Younger School-Age Children (5-8 years old)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are learning to play typical childhood games.</li> <li>• They love to be active.</li> <li>• They are developing good muscle control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are learning to read. Some may not be good at it yet.</li> <li>• They have lots of questions.</li> <li>• They are eager to learn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They enjoy friends.</li> <li>• They are still tender about winning and losing.</li> <li>• They are growing to enjoy group play more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are more ready to understand their personal decision for Christ.</li> <li>• They begin recognizing the truth and authority of the Bible.</li> </ul>
Older School-Age Children (9-12 years old)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some are awkward, growing quickly as adolescence approaches.</li> <li>• They love physical activity.</li> <li>• They love food and are often hungry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have great memories.</li> <li>• They are ready to think relationally about different subjects.</li> <li>• They come up with challenging questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They can be competitive.</li> <li>• Friends are important.</li> <li>• There are big differences between boys and girls, socially.</li> <li>• They are concerned about fairness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They may need assurance of their personal decision to receive Christ.</li> <li>• They can begin praying and reading the Bible on their own.</li> <li>• They want heroes, like JESUS!</li> </ul>



## Adjusting Teaching Activities to Different Ages

Consider one age group and its characteristics. Create a list of ideas or activities to help children of that age group learn better in the class time.

Age group: \_\_\_\_\_

## Connecting with the Whole Child

Which of the parts of a child do we generally focus on in a classroom setting?

What are some activities we can do while teaching that will involve these different parts of a child?

What kinds of activities can you do in a teaching setting that will help a child's spirit connect to God?

Read **Mark 12:30**.

Underline the words that have to do with the four parts of a child.

### **Mark 12:30**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.





# Building Relationships with Children

Building positive relationships with children begins with a welcome.

**Matthew 18:5**

And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.

## What is "Decomai" (dekh'-om-ahee)?

The word translated "welcome" or "receive" in Matthew 18:5 is the Greek word "decomai." What does decomai mean in each of these passages?

**Matthew 10:14** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 10:40** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 2:28** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 16:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 4:45** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 7:38** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 21:17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians 4:14** \_\_\_\_\_

Reread **Matthew 18:5**. What do all these passages tell us about welcoming a child?



## Welcoming Children

What might it look like to welcome or “decomai” children in your home or church? What kinds of things would a child notice that could help them feel loved and welcomed when they come to your church or group setting?

## Building Relationships with Children

Think of a few practical ideas for each of the four areas:

Take an interest in their lives	Share about your own life
Encourage them	Show love outside of the classroom

Read **Mark 10:13-16**. Circle words that show how Jesus welcomed and valued children. How do you think the children felt about coming close to Jesus? Why?

**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.

**Action Steps**

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. How will you better build relationships with children by welcoming them? Write down one or two ideas you will implement in the coming weeks to welcome children to your home, classroom or Bible club.
2. Which of the four principles for building relationships with children challenged you the most? How can you begin using the ideas that were shared?



# Preparing to Teach Children

## A Good or Not-So-Good Teacher?

What differences might you notice between a “good teacher” and a “not-so-good” teacher?

Good Teacher

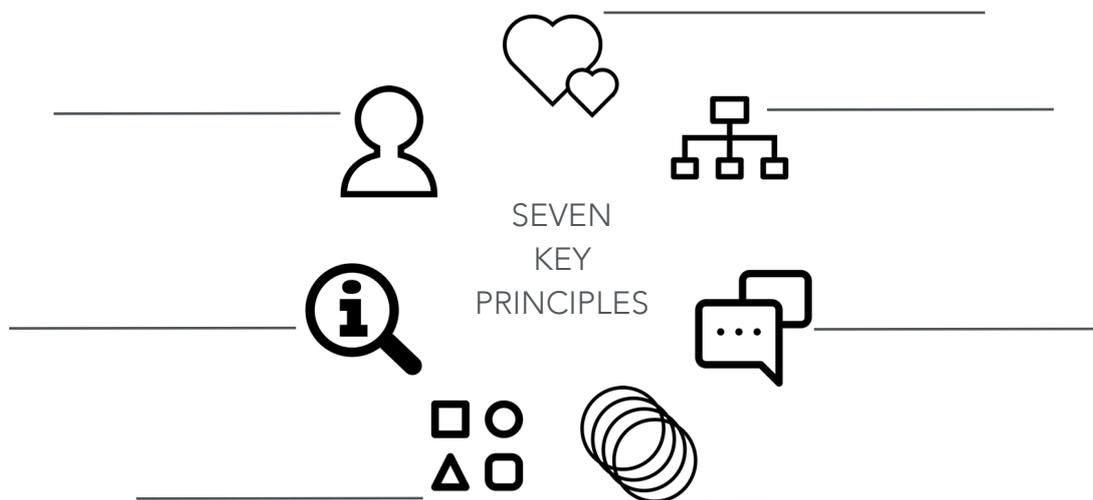
Not-so-good Teacher

Why is being a good teacher important?  
(Read **Psalm 78:1-7**.)

**Psalm 78:7**  
Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

## Creating a Learning Environment

How can we create a learning environment to help children grow?



Which of these principles is easiest for you to do in the classroom?

Which of these is the most difficult for you?

## The Example of Jesus

Jesus demonstrated all of these principles as he was helping his disciples grow. List some examples for each principle.

Love	
Structure	
Meaningful Information	
Variety	
Repetition	
Dialogue	
Permission to be themselves	

## Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. What is one thing you learned that you are doing well as a teacher?  
What is one thing you could do differently to be a better teacher?
  
2. What is one idea from this lesson you will implement to improve the learning environment in your work with children?



# Helping Children Grow as Disciples

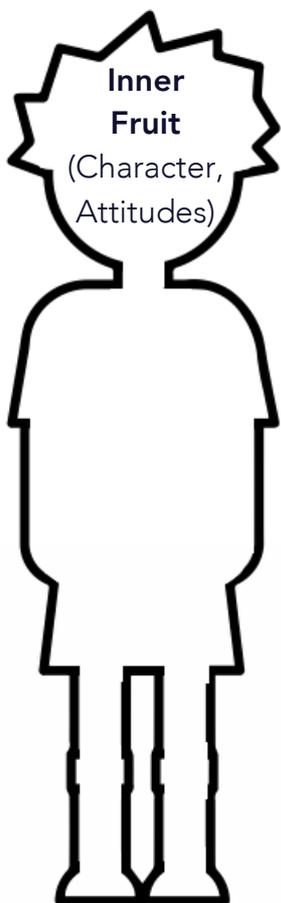
## What is a Disciple?

What is your definition of a “disciple”?

**John 14:15**  
“If you love me,  
keep my  
commands.”

A disciple is:	A disciple is not:
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## What Does a Disciplined Child Look Like?



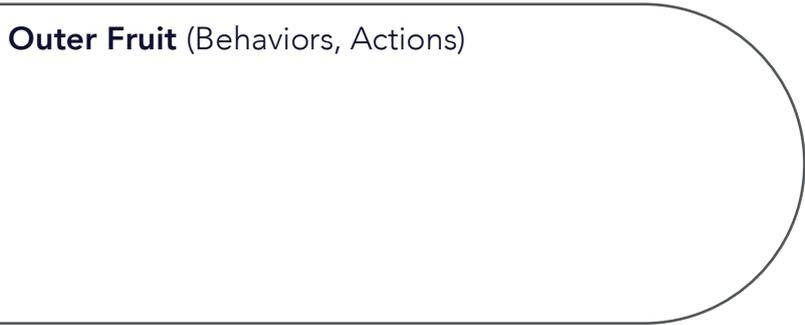
Read **Matthew 7:17-20** and **John 15:4-8**. What picture did Jesus use to explain growing as disciples?

How do you know if that child loves Jesus? How do you know if that child is learning to obey Jesus?

If we were to look at a child who is a disciple of Jesus, what fruit would we see in their life?

**Outer Fruit** (Behaviors, Actions)

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## Five Key Areas of Discipleship Growth



Know  
God



Love  
God



Fellowship  
Together



Honor  
God



Serve  
God

## How Do I Disciple Children?

To learn how to make disciples, let's look at the Master disciple-maker: Jesus.



**Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some examples of Jesus putting his own teaching into practice?



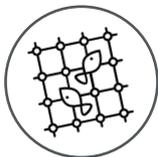
**Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_ **with them.**

What were some of the things Jesus and his disciples did together?



**Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_ **them.**

What different ways or methods did Jesus use to teach them?



**Jesus gave them opportunities to** \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some examples?



**Jesus surrounded them with** \_\_\_\_\_.

When did Jesus do this?

## Practical Ideas for Making Disciples



What are some practical ideas for how we can set an example as we help children grow as disciples?



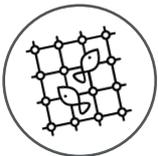
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What are some practical ideas for how we can spend time with children as we help them grow as disciples?



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What are some practical ideas for how we can teach children as we help them grow as disciples?



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What are some practical ideas for how we can give children opportunities to serve as we help them grow as disciples?



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What are some practical ideas for how we can surround children with prayer as we help them grow as disciples?

## Action Steps

Often people think if they had just the right curriculum or program, it would teach children to be disciples. However the *most important* thing we can do is be models of growing disciples, setting the example for children to follow.

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. How are you doing at modeling being an example of a growing disciple? What things are you doing well? What things could you improve with the Lord's help?
2. What are some other things you can do to help children come to love and obey Jesus more? Write down two or three practical ideas from this lesson you will begin using in your ministry to children to help them grow as disciples.

### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.



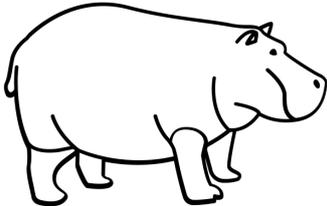
### **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.



# The Learning Process

When we think about helping our children grow as disciples, which animal should we want them to be more like? Why?



We have only truly learned something when we do it ourselves.



PRESENT	DISCUSS	APPLY
TEACHER is most active at this step, presenting the information.	TEACHER AND LEARNER both participate at this step, as they talk about and process the information that was presented.	LEARNER is most active at this step, ready to do something in response to the lesson. Teacher leads learners to apply the lesson.
LEARNERS ASK: What is the information? They are simply receiving new information through all of their senses.	LEARNERS ASK: What does it mean? Why is it important? They are beginning to understand the importance of the information being discussed.	LEARNERS ASK: What does it mean to me? They are responding and relating it to their life.
Have we learned? NOT YET	Have we learned? NOT YET	Have we learned? YES!
IDEAS FOR PRESENTING: Show your learners the new information you want them to learn using objects, pictures, stories, charts, diagrams, video, music, drama, real experiences, etc.	IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING: Invite learners to think, talk, ask questions, discuss, review, recall, compare, analyze, give examples, explore feelings, consider various points of view, etc. All will help learners process the information.	IDEAS FOR APPLYING: Challenge learners to apply by asking for commitment, praying, giving assignments, planning in-class activities for learners to try, challenging students to carry out specific projects outside of class, follow-up to ensure good results.

Work for application that gives positive results; avoid tasks and application that are beyond students' abilities.



## Practicing the Learning Process

Consider one of the following discipleship topics: prayer, worship, caring for others, or giving. Decide what you want the children to learn and then answer the following questions:

My topic:

1. What creative ways might they PRESENT the topic to children?
2. What key questions might help them DISCUSS the topic?
3. What will they do to help children APPLY the topic to their lives?

## Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following question:

Is the learning process something you currently use when you teach children? If not, which area – present, discuss or apply – do you need to strengthen? What can you do to strengthen it?



# Helping Children Experience God's Word

## How Can Children Grasp God's Word?

Any disciple of Jesus can learn to engage in meaningful ways with God's Word through five activities, represented by the five fingers on our hands. Label each finger with the correct activity.



## HEAR: Telling a Bible Story Well

What makes a good storyteller?

How can different parts of the body be used in the story?



MOUTH/VOICE



FACE



EYES



HANDS/FINGERS



FEET/TOES



KNEES/LEGS



What are some ways to involve movement in the classroom?

## READ: Helping Children Learn to Read God's Word

As children learn to *read* God's Word on their own, they need to *think* about what they read. This is also the first step in helping children learn to *study* God's Word.

### Three questions to guide our reading from God's Word



**Read/Observe**  
(I receive)

QUESTION 1:  
What does it say?  
(about God, Jesus, people)



**Interpret**  
(I think)

QUESTION 2:  
What does it mean?  
(Why is this important?)



**Apply**  
(I try)

QUESTION 3:  
What does God want me  
to do? (Obey)

Practice this process, asking the three questions as you reflect on **Psalm 23:1-2**. Write down what you observe, interpret, apply.

### Psalm 23:1-2

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.

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## **MEMORIZE: Memorizing Scripture**

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. PRESENT (memorize)   | Children learn what it _____ |
| 2. DISCUSS (understand) | Children learn what it _____ |
| 3. APPLY (apply)        | Children learn what it _____ |

How can we help children understand the meaning of the verse and its relevance to their lives?

How can we help children remember the verse?

## **Action Steps**

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

For each of the following activities write down one or two ideas you learned today that you will begin implementing or strengthening as you teach children God's Word?

**Hear:** Telling a Bible story well

**Read:** Helping children read God's Word

**Memorize:** Helping children memorize Scripture



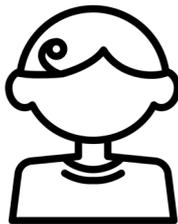
# Empowering Children to be Kingdom Champions

It is difficult to do activities well when some parts of the body are left out. The same is true of the church, or the body of Christ. God has called us to accomplish his mission together, but in many churches, children are an overlooked part of the body and not included as participants in God's mission.

## Kingdom Champion Children in the Bible

Who were some of the children God used in the Bible?

### Biblical examples of Children God used



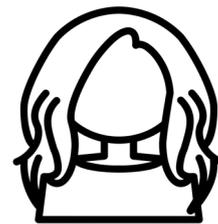
**Samuel**

1 Samuel 3:1-21



**David**

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
1 Samuel 17:17-51



**Naaman's servant girl**

2 Kings 5:1-17

1. How did God use the child?
2. Why do you think God used a child in this story?
3. What did the adults learn from the ministry/service of the child?



What do these verses say to a child who wants to be a partner in God’s work? How do these verses apply to children?

**Ephesians 2:10**  
 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**1 Timothy 4:12**  
 Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

What attitudes or understandings prevent the church from seeing children as partners in God’s mission?

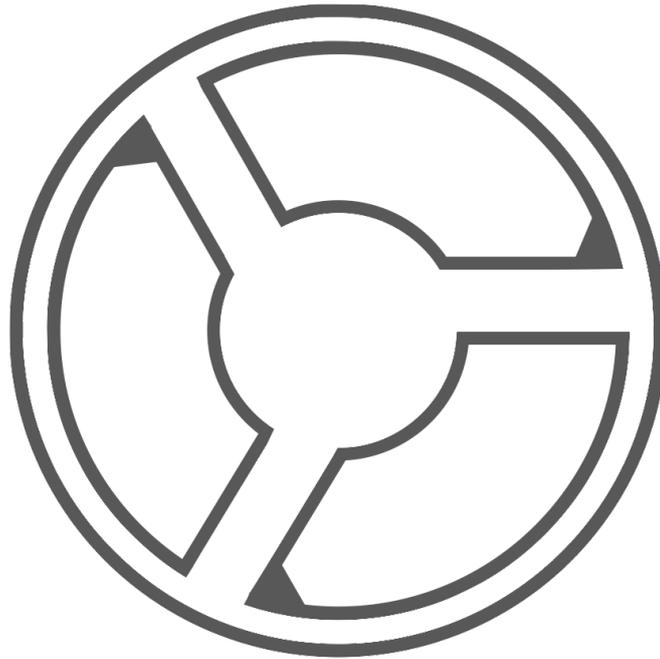
## Benefits of Empowering Children

What are the benefits to a <b>child</b> when he/she is empowered for ministry?	What are the benefits to the <b>church</b> when children are empowered for ministry?	What are the benefits to the <b>community</b> when children are empowered for ministry?
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## What Children Need from Adults

The Wheel of Participation

\_\_\_\_\_ (the center): What does showing respect to children look like?



\_\_\_\_\_ : Children need opportunities to use their God-given gifts to meet needs and serve.

\_\_\_\_\_ : If children are given responsibility, they learn to be decision-makers.

\_\_\_\_\_ : Adults can help meet children's emotional needs, like comfort, encouragement and praise to help children gain confidence in ministry.



## What can Children Do?

What types of ministry or mission activities would be inappropriate for children?

What types of ministry and mission activities *can* children do?

<p>In the Church</p>	<p>In the Community</p>
<p>To Their Peers or Family</p>	<p>For the World</p>



## Engaging Families

### What are Families Like in Your Community?

Create a family scenario using the family grouping and economic status you have been given. Determine the ages and genders of the children, the occupations of the parents, where they live, the reason for the family being in the grouping that it is, and whether the family is Christian or non-Christian. Use the following questions to guide your discussion:



What is daily life like? What practical issues overwhelm the family?



How is the marriage? Are there issues?



How are parents doing with their children?



What are financial/economic issues for the family?

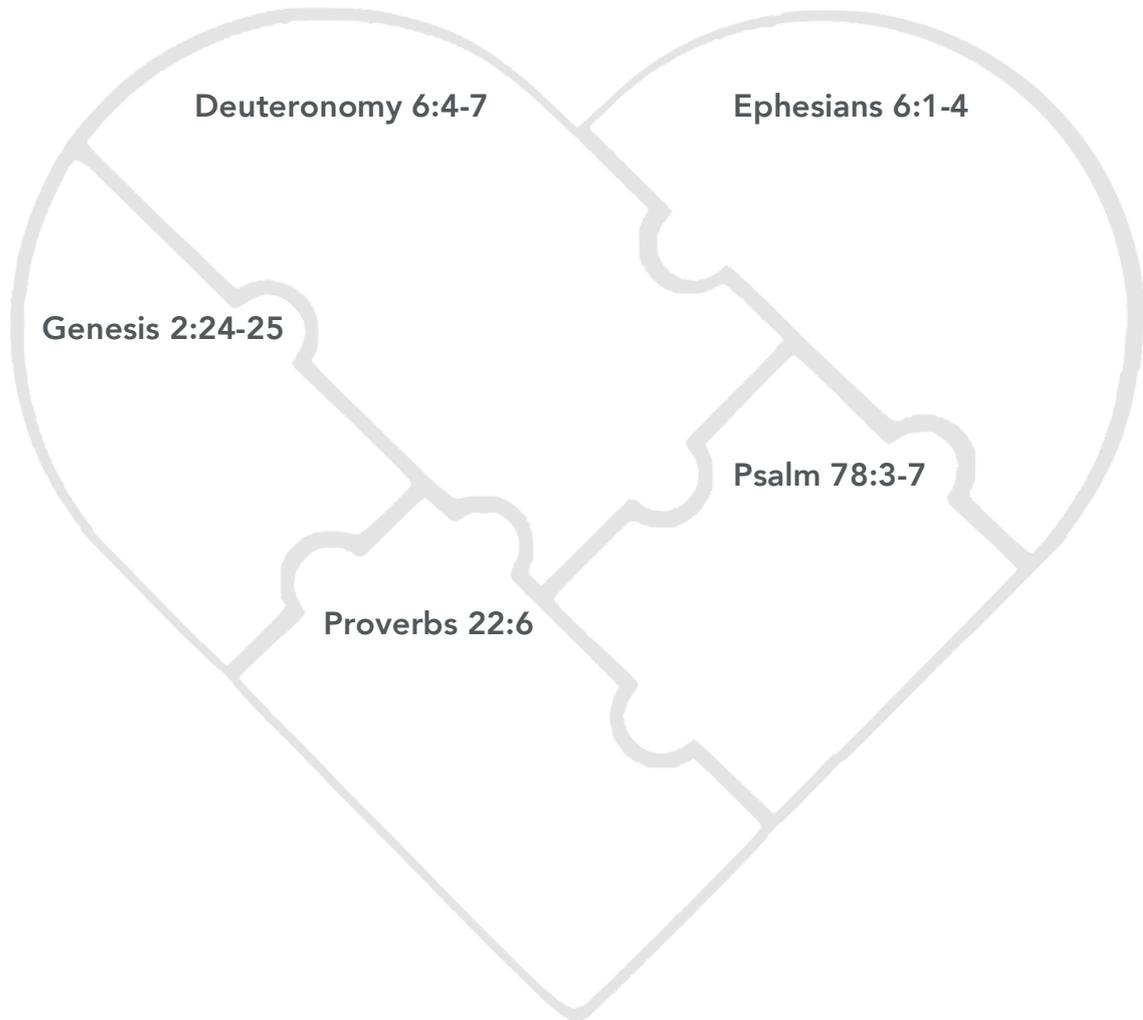


What other community issues are impacting the family?

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How are these families like real families in your community? What are the biggest issues facing local families in your community?

## What is God's Heart for Families?



Families are a key institution created by God. They came before Sunday schools, church buildings and children's programs. Families are God's great plan to grow healthy individuals, healthy communities and a healthy world. In healthy families children (and adults!) can best receive holistic care, gain confidence, learn and grow to be all God intended.

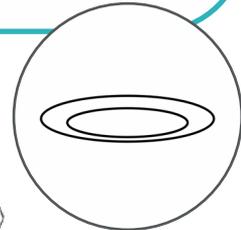
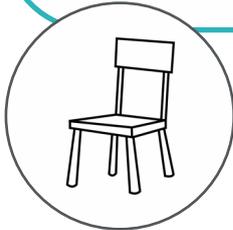
## Helping Families Disciple Their Children at Home

How can we encourage families to nurture their children spiritually as disciples at home?

### MAKE THE MOST OF TEACHABLE MOMENTS

#### **Deuteronomy 6:4-7**

What are some examples of teachable moments with children in your life?



### DISCIPLINE FOR GROWTH

#### **Ephesians 6:4**

Children need a balance of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### SERVE GOD TOGETHER

#### **Matthew 5:16**

How can families serve together to help non-Christian families come to know and love Jesus?

## Supporting Families



How can the church's children's leaders support/encourage Christian families in the discipleship of their children?



How can children's leaders support/encourage unbelieving families whose children attend the program?

## Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. Which principle from "Helping Families Disciple Their Children at Home" challenged you the most? If you are a parent, how can you put this principle into practice in your home? If you are not a parent, how can you implement that principle in your children's ministry?
2. Write down one practical idea of how you can start supporting or encouraging Christian families in your church or ministry to disciple their children at home.
3. Write down one practical idea of how you can start supporting or encouraging the unbelieving families of children who attend your church or ministry program.



# Sharing the Gospel with Today's Children

## Understanding the Purpose

According to **Matthew 28:18-20**, what is the purpose of sharing the gospel?

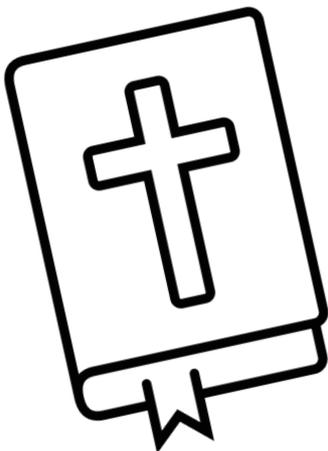
### **Matthew 28:18-20**

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

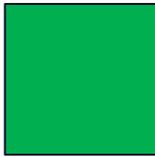
Why is it so important to understand the purpose?

## Understanding the Gospel

How would you define the gospel? What are the key points anyone – including a child – would need to know and understand?



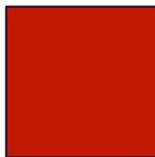
## The Gospel Colors



**GREEN: (Acts 17:26-27)** reminds us of creation. God, the Father, created the world including the first two people Adam and Eve. God loved Adam and Eve. He gave them honor and authority to rule over creation. God made them to be in perfect relationship with himself, each other and the world around them. God made us and loves us, too. But there is a problem.



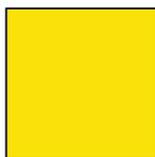
**DARK: (Romans 3:23)** reminds us of sin. God's enemy, Satan, tricked Adam and Eve, and they chose to rebel against God. They were disloyal and disobeyed him—this is called sin. We, too, have done wrong things and have disobeyed God. Our sin brings shame, fear and separation from God. Sin breaks our relationships with other people. Creation also feels the effects of sin through death, sickness and destruction. We can do nothing to make things right again. But God has made a way.



**RED: (Romans 5:8)** reminds us of Jesus and his love. Out of his great love for us, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born and to live in the world. Jesus healed people and cast out demons. He taught people about God. He lived a perfect life and bled and died on a cross. When he died, he took the shame and punishment for our sin and the sin of the world. He then came back to life, conquering sin and death and winning victory over Satan. Because of what Jesus did, we can now enjoy a relationship with God as part of his family.



**CLEAN: (John 1:12)** reminds us of forgiveness. When we choose to trust Jesus and follow him, he comes to live inside of us. He cleans our hearts from sin and welcomes us into his family. He gives us honor as his children and power to live for him. This new relationship we have with Jesus starts now and will last forever.



**YELLOW/GOLD: (Ephesians 2:10)** reminds us of life with Jesus. When we trust Jesus, one day we will go to heaven and receive the crown of honor. We will live and rule with God forever. But our life with Jesus starts now, and He wants us to live for him. He wants us to show his love to others and to do his good work in the world. He wants everyone to know the good news about Jesus so that they can know him, too. Jesus promises that one day he will come and make all things new again, and we will live in his perfect Kingdom forever.

Practice sharing the gospel colors as if sharing with a child.

**Speak from your heart**

**Keep it simple**

**Share about relationship**



## Understanding the Audience

\_\_\_\_\_ is explaining Bible truths in ways that those to whom you are talking can understand and apply to their lives.

How might the way you share the gospel with an adult be different from how you might share it with a child?

How would you explain these gospel words to a child?

1. Sin
2. Savior
3. Forgive
4. Trust
5. Prayer
6. Faith
7. Confess
8. Spirit

Different children will have different points of connection to the gospel. Consider one of the following children:

- A child from another faith
  - A child living as a refugee
  - A child living in wealth
  - A child experiencing crisis
- What is life like for this child? What are their needs? What parts of the gospel might they connect with most?

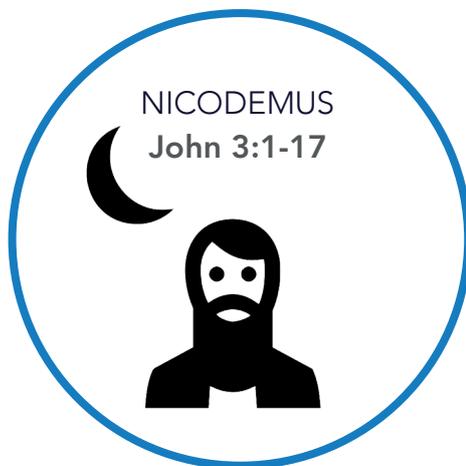
How would you adapt sharing the gospel colors with this particular child?



# Talking with Children About Following Jesus

Sharing the gospel with a child and inviting them to follow Jesus has extraordinary value.

## Gospel Conversations in the Bible



What can we learn about sharing the gospel from these encounters?



## Questions and Dialogue

We can engage children in conversations about Jesus by using questions. Jesus was a master at using questions, asking 307 questions in the gospels!

Brainstorm as many questions as they can for each gospel color. As you think about questions to ask children, remember:

- Use questions that spark curiosity and get children to think.
- Ask questions that require more than a yes/no or one-word answer.
- Questions should not make kids feel uncomfortable.

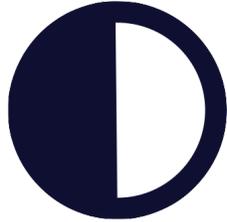
	GREEN	
	DARK	
	RED	
	CLEAN	
	YELLOW GOLD	

## Answering Questions

When children ask us questions, our tendency is to respond by giving them the answer. But when people asked Jesus a question, he often (though not always) answered it by asking a question of his own. We can do the same and help children discover important truths about Jesus.

## Inviting Children to Follow Jesus

To make a true, lasting, and personal decision to follow Jesus, children need to:



Admit  
their sin



Believe  
in Jesus



Choose  
to follow

## Leading a Child to Christ

When a child is ready...

 <p>Pray with the child.</p>	 <p>Celebrate with the child.</p>
--	---

When a child is not ready...

 <p>What should we <i>do</i> if a child is not yet ready to follow Christ?</p>	 <p>What should we <i>not</i> do?</p>
---	--

## Celebrate with Children!

After praying with a child, celebrate their decision to follow Christ! Then take a few moments to share with them about their new relationship with Jesus.



### **You are God's Child!**

Explain that they are now God's child and that Jesus lives inside them by his Holy Spirit. (Galatians 4:6, John 1:12)



### **The Holy Spirit will Help!**

Explain that the Holy Spirit will help them to make choices that are honoring to God. (Romans 8:9)



### **Jesus Forgives!**

Help children understand that Jesus will still love them even if they sin and promises to forgive them if they ask. (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:11-12)



### **Grow with Others!**

Encourage children to attend a Bible-believing church so that they can continue to grow in their relationship with God. (Hebrews 10:25, Ephesians 2:22)



### **Talk With Jesus!**

Encourage children to pray and read the Bible. You may need to give them some help and explain what to do. (Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 119:105)

## Practice Talking with a Child

Role-play a conversation with a child interested in saying yes to following Jesus, but who has a few questions. Begin with one or more of the questions below:

- Have you ever asked Jesus to be your Savior?
- Why do you need Jesus?
- What do you believe about Jesus and what he did on the cross?
- Why do you want to follow Jesus?
- Would you like to begin your relationship with Jesus now? (Pray together.)



## Action Steps

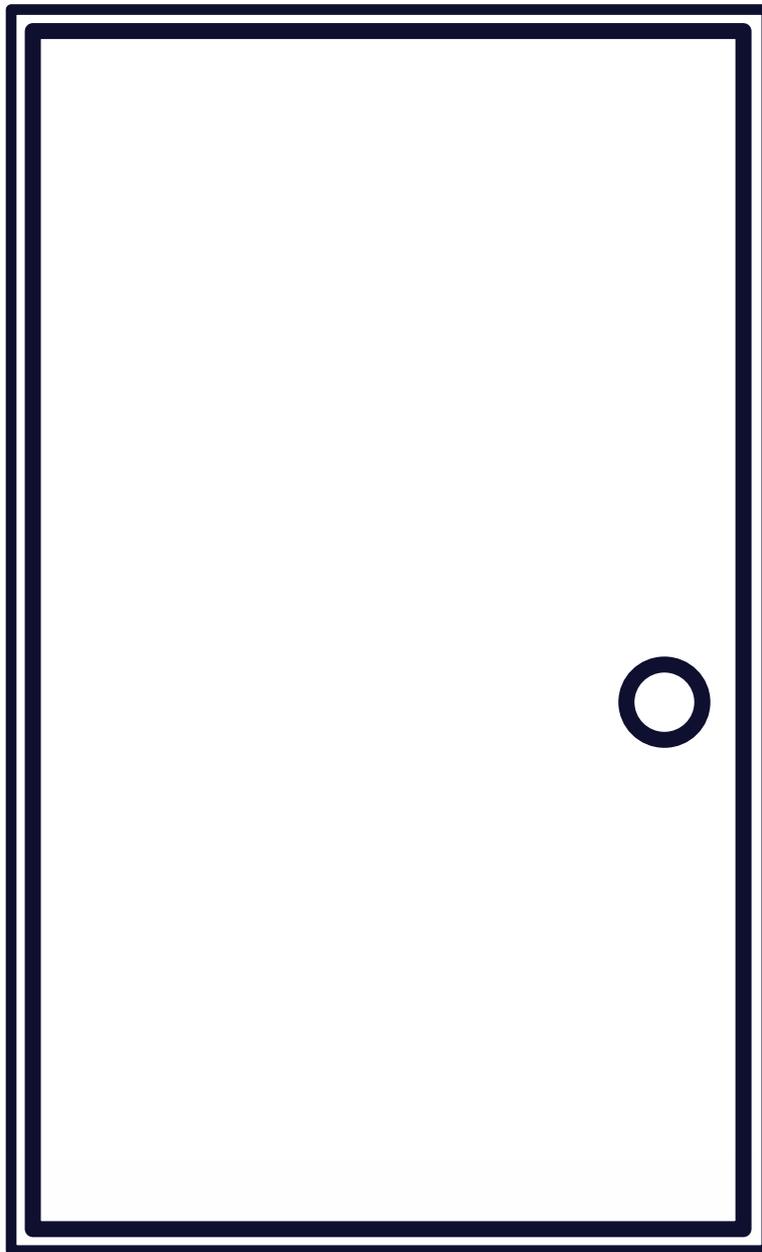
Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. At the beginning of the lesson we explored conversations in the New Testament. What did you learn from looking at these Scripture examples? How will this change your approach to sharing the gospel with children?
2. How can you use questions and dialogue more as you share the gospel with children?
3. We also discussed inviting children to follow Jesus and simple things we can do to help them begin their relationship with Christ. Do you currently take time to talk individually with children after you give an invitation for them to receive Christ? If not, how can you give your invitations differently?



### **Colossians 4:2-6**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.



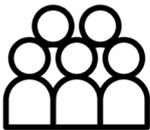
# Building Bridges of Outreach

## Community Outreach Assessment (Part 1)

Before missionaries or church-planters begin working in a new community or with an unreached people group, they attempt to understand that group of people. Some type of assessment is done of the community to find out about the people living there. The process is called Community Outreach Assessment and involves asking several big questions.

**Matthew 24:14**  
 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Choose *one* community on which to focus and draw a picture of the children's world in that community. The picture should have simple drawings that illustrate answers to the detailed questions below.



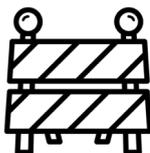
### Who are these people?

- What activities do they do?
- Where do children naturally gather?
- What do children like to do?
- How do children group themselves? by age? by gender?
- What are their family situations?



### What are their needs?

- **SPIRITUAL:** What is their spiritual condition? (Confusion, sterile, cult, pluralistic, seeking)
- **PHYSICAL:** Do they have unmet basic needs? (Clothes, food, shelter) Are there health or medical needs? (Vision, hearing, diet, dental, vulnerability due to poverty, disease)
- **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL:** Are there obvious or unseen emotional needs? (Social, family, trauma, security)
- **MENTAL:** Do they have needs for education, practical information? (Schools, literacy, tutoring, life skills, English, technology)



**What are the barriers or obstacles that need to be considered or overcome before they can be reached with the gospel?** (Culture, attitudes, language, families, other religions or beliefs, location, time, working with other groups?)



## What is Outreach?

These are things that people have said about outreach. Do you agree with these statements?

1. Sunday School and outreach are the same.
2. You can do outreach even if you have very little money.
3. Non-Christian children are just like Christian children.
4. If we present the gospel, children will always listen and understand.
5. Children do not need words. They will understand the gospel if we simply show them love.
6. Children are too young to make a serious commitment to follow Jesus.
7. The bigger the outreach event, the better it is.
8. What works in one place will work everywhere to reach children.
9. Children can lead other children to Christ.
10. If children do not receive Christ at an outreach, it is a failure.
11. It is okay to have humor or games at an outreach.
12. Parents should not watch an outreach event.

Which of these statements challenges you the most?

## Ideas for Outreach

Brainstorm a list of possible outreach ideas, programs, or methods to the children in your community (or for the assessment picture you drew).

		
OUTREACH IDEAS	PROGRAMS	METHODS

## Community Outreach Assessment (Part 2)

Choose two or three outreach and bridge-building ideas that could possibly be effective for the community that your group has drawn. Look at the following questions as you discuss:



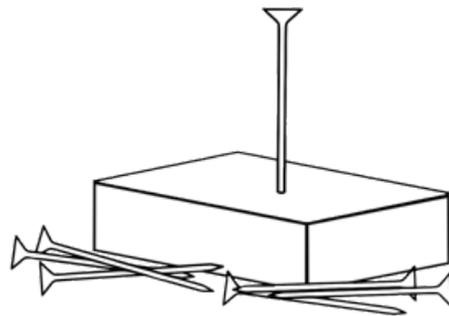
### How can they be reached? How do we build bridges of relationship?

- What methods could be used?
- What kind of outreach will be best for the children you hope to reach?
- What resources do you have? What can you do within these limits?
- What must be considered for lasting impact with children?
- How will you connect with families?
- How will this be linked to the ministry of the local church?
- Who should be invited to be partners in this?
- What are the challenges that will require prayer? Who will pray?

## Impossibilities

Sometimes when we think about reaching the children of our community, it seems impossible. The obstacles are too great. When Jesus' disciples were faced with a question about who could be saved, Jesus shared a different perspective.

**Matthew 19:26**  
Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."



### The Joshua Principle

In mission and in evangelism, we need to remember the story of Joshua. The battle of Jericho was won with a unique strategy. Each time Israelites listened to God, they won the battle. When they did not listen to God, they experienced defeat or confusion.

(Joshua 2, 5, 6)



## Action Steps

As you consider your community maps and outreach ideas, write down 1 or 2 next steps you can take toward making your outreach idea become a reality.

Possible next steps might include:

- Recruiting a team to help you with the outreach.
- Prayerfully choosing which outreach idea you want to implement.
- Prepare and plan the details of your outreach.
- Promote your outreach in the community.

1.

2.

3.



# Building God's Kingdom Together

## The Farmer and the Turnip Story

What lessons can we learn from the story about working together?



## Why is Working Together So Important?

### **John 13:34-35**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

### **John 17:20-21**

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

### **Ephesians 4:16**

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

## Working Together Chart



Write the names of people or groups in your local church with whom you may need to work to reach/disciple children, such as families, pastors, leaders, other teachers, etc.



Write the names of other Christian individuals, churches or ministries reaching and discipling children in your community.

## How Can Leaders Work Together?

Think of ideas that the people of God might do together to reach and disciple more children and families for Christ.

## Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following question:

How could you work with another church or ministry or person to reach, disciple and empower children in your church or community?

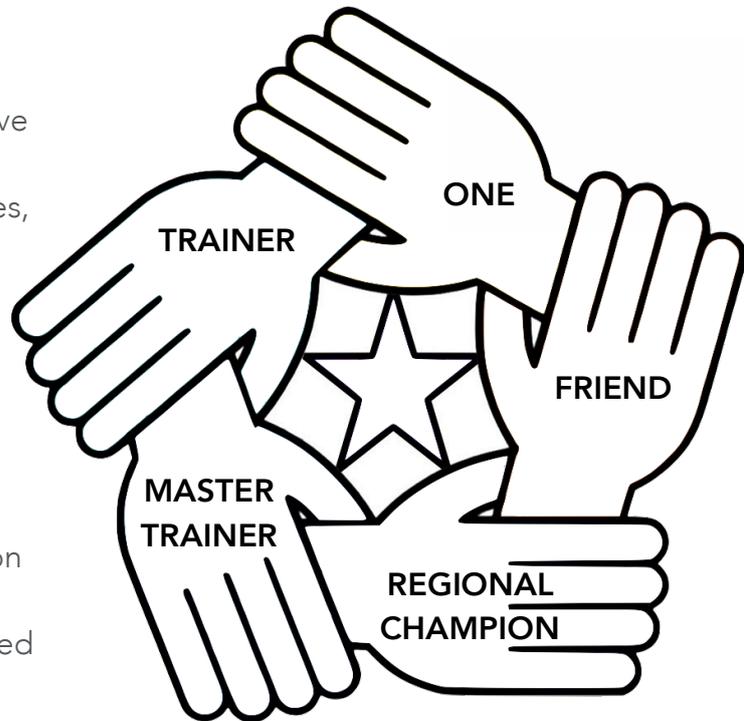


# Invitation to Join the Movement

## 1for50 Roles

Over the years, people have connected with the 1for50 movement in different roles, identifying how they can use their gifts and calling to further the cause of reaching kids for Jesus. They share several things in common:

- They caught the vision
- They chose to serve
- They stayed connected



Are you ready to join hands with 1for50?

## Joining the Movement

[www.1for50.net/trainee-join](http://www.1for50.net/trainee-join)

## Stay Connected

We invite you to “Reportify” so we can celebrate together what God is doing! Please share your stories, on Facebook, in your local WhatsApp group or email the Global Team at [1for50@gmail.com](mailto:1for50@gmail.com). You can also use the link to the online 1for50 Activity Form found at [1for50.net/active](http://1for50.net/active).

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### Reportify

*verb /rɪˈpɔːrt.təˈfaɪ/*

to testify to the mighty works of God and report on it to someone.

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# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

To join the 1for50 Movement:



### The One

reaches out to kids in the local community and tells them about Jesus.



### The Trainer

equips Ones to reach, disciple, and empower children in their local communities.



### The Master Trainer

equips Trainers and networks with existing leaders.



### The Regional Champion

strategizes, mobilizes, and networks to promote the 1for50 vision.



### The Friend

supports the vision and mission of 1for50 and endorses the movement to others.

**Option 1:** Join online by visiting <https://1for50.net/trainee-join/> and filling out the online form.

**Option 2:** Fill out this form, take a picture of it, and email it to [hello@1for50.net](mailto:hello@1for50.net).

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

WhatsApp number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ok to receive email updates from 1for50:  Yes  No

City, Country (where you live)

\_\_\_\_\_

Languages you speak: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve 1for50 in the role of:

One  Trainer  Master Trainer

Regional Champion  Friend

Date of Training: \_\_\_\_\_

Training Location (City, Country):

\_\_\_\_\_

Event Type:  Vision Casting  Training of Trainers

Children's Ministry Training  Regional or Global Retreat

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact: [hello@1for50.net](mailto:hello@1for50.net)



## Evaluation

What were your favorite lessons?

- Jesus' Heart for Children
- What is 1for50?
- Jesus and the Children's Leader
- Characteristics of Children
- Building Relationships with Children
- Preparing to Teach Children
- Helping Children Grow as Disciples
- The Learning Process
- Helping Children Engage with God's Word
- Empowering Children to be Kingdom Champions
- Engaging Families
- Sharing the Gospel with Today's Children
- Talking with Children About Following Jesus
- Building Bridges of Outreach
- Building God's Kingdom Together
- Invitation to Join the Movement

What is something new you learned or that impacted you?

What are your next steps as a result of completing this training?

Do you have any other comments?



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## Additional Notes...



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## Additional Notes...



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## Additional Notes...



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## Additional Notes...



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## Additional Notes...