

The Value of Children and Youth Ministry

Matthew 28:16-20; Psalm 127:3-4

Main idea: To emphasize the importance of investing in the spiritual development of children and youth, and to encourage active engagement in children and youth ministry.

Topic: Working with Children and Youth

Scripture Verses to Support the Value of Children and Youth Ministry:

1. 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." This passage emphasizes the importance of welcoming and valuing children in the ministry.
2. Proverbs 22:6 - "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." This verse highlights the significance of investing in the spiritual development of children and youth.
3. Ephesians 6:4 - "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." This verse emphasizes the responsibility of parents and the church community to nurture children in their faith.

Language Suggestions and Cross-References:

1. In Matthew 28:19, the word "make disciples" can be further explored by referencing other passages that discuss discipleship, such as Luke 9:23 and John 8:31-32. These passages can help reinforce the idea of nurturing young believers and guiding them in their faith journey.
2. Psalm 127:3-4 mentions that children are a heritage from the Lord. Exploring the Hebrew word for "heritage" (נַחֲלָה - nachalah) can provide deeper insight into the value and significance of children in God's plan. Other passages that use this word, such as Deuteronomy 4:20 and Joshua 13:33, can be referenced to further support the sermon's point.

Practical Suggestions:

1. Share examples from the lives of biblical characters who were impacted by their involvement in children and youth ministry, such as Samuel, Timothy, or the boy who offered his loaves and fishes to Jesus.
2. Include testimonies from parents, volunteers, or young individuals who have experienced the positive impact of children and youth ministry in their lives.
3. Provide practical steps for parents and church members to actively engage in supporting and participating in children and youth ministry, such as volunteering, mentoring, or attending relevant events and programs.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and references seamlessly into your sermon to reinforce the value of children and youth ministry without diverting from your main message.