

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Reuel & Christine Tica
Missionaries to Philippines
Please Contact Them at
reueltica@yahoo.com

I  MY
CHURCH

GROWTH
GUIDE

Handout: 08/19/18

Study: 08/26/18

We Love Our Children

Back in the day, there was a famous preacher story that circulated amongst what were then known as “Christian Education Directors”—our modern day family pastors. It was said that D.L. Moody had come back from a tent revival meeting where he reported that 2 1/2 people were saved. Whoever he was talking to replied, “You mean, two adults and one child?” D.L. Moody responded, “No, two children and one adult. When you save a child, you save a life—a whole life.”

I came to know Jesus when I was 6-years-old at a Vacation Bible School. Over the years, I’ve found out that I’m not alone. I’m just one of the many people who decided to follow Jesus as a child and one of the many people who came to know Christ at a Vacation Bible School. Nearly 80% of people in our churches today decided to follow Jesus before age 18. 50% of them decided to follow Jesus before age 12. In fact, it becomes exponentially rarer and exponentially harder for a person to decide to follow Christ after age 18.

This shouldn’t really surprise us. In a statement that He must have known would end up on the wall of virtually every children’s ministry in the world, Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus wasn’t just commenting on what adults need to do to enter the Kingdom of Heaven or even insight into what the Kingdom of Heaven is all about; Jesus was telling us something fundamental about childhood.

There is a season in a person’s life when they are most open to learning what it means to trust God.

It’s a season—sometime between 4-14—when people are more moldable than they will ever be in their lifetime. It’s when people are forming their understanding of the world, of relationships, of love, of God. It’s a season when people are impressionable. We should be intentional about ensuring that they get the right impression.

I don’t think this season is by accident. When God said, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”, I think He really did mean everything. It is during this season we need to focus our efforts on helping people place their trust in Jesus.

Many people call this the 4-14 Window. What we do during this window may be the most important thing the church does.

Source: “Why Children Are The Most Important People In The Church by Damon DeLillo

KEY VERSE

Mark 10:14

*But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God
NKJV*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: John 8:12; Ephesians 2:8-10

Children Need Jesus

1. Why do children need Jesus? What issues do children face today?
2. Why is it important that our church invest in children?

Tuesday: Mark 10:13-16

Jesus Loves To Bless Children

3. Why do you think the disciples attempted to prevent children from being with Jesus?
4. How would you characterize Jesus's view of children?

Wednesday: Romans 10:9-14

We Love Children By Evangelizing Them

5. Why is it loving to give the gospel to children?
6. What are some ways our church gives opportunity for children to hear the gospel?

Thursday: I Thessalonians 2:7-12

We Love Our Children By Encouraging Them

7. In what areas do children need encouragement?
8. In what ways are children encouraged at our church?
9. What can you do to help encourage the children in our church and in our lives?

Friday: I Corinthians 11:1; Titus 2:1-8

We Love Our Children By Educating Them And Their Parents

10. What are some ways our church educates children?
11. How does our church help parents?
12. If you are an experienced parent, what can you do to help parents of young children in our church?