

Reaching “Throw-Away” Children

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INTRODUCTION

Children have always been close to the heart of God. We can see this by the emphasis the Bible puts on children. The word *children* appears in the King James Version of the Bible some 1,752 times. Even Jesus declared that our future as Christians depends somewhat on how we treat children. He said, “. . . whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18:5, 6). Touching children was a priority in Jesus' ministry; therefore the same should become a priority in our ministry as well.

Five-step Process for Reaching “Throw-away” Children

I. _____

In ministry, we sometimes get the cart before the horse. We want to “do” something for God. But, our effectiveness in what we do always flows out of “who we are,” and who we are is determined by our time with the Father.

“YOU shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

“A man’s gift makes room for God, and brings him before great men” (Proverbs 18:16).

We do not _____ and _____ the ministry of God’s church; we _____ what God has already _____ for us.

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

II. _____

It is important to know “who we are” as well as “where we are.” The reason for this is simple! “We attract who we are, not who we want.”

Two places to look:

- Look _____ — Who am I? What kind of people presently attend this church?
- Look _____ — What kind of people make up this community? What needs are present in this city? In this area?

One of the greatest ways to get to know your community is to get out into it and see it for yourself. Go to the post office; go to the mall, go to the high school football game; go to a restaurant for breakfast; go to Wal-Mart; go to the courthouse, the ballpark, and the hospital. Go where people are and get a vision of these people sitting in your church.

III. _____
Once you locate the children, you must begin to add value to them. You must reach down where they are and come up with ways to lift them up.

Ideas that work:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

IV. _____
It is important to know what God has called you to do and who God has called you to reach. You may not start out loving. Love starts with simple obedience to God, but it will soon turn into a driving passion!

IV. _____
We do not do it because we _____ it; we do it because God _____.

V. _____
Leadership grows out of relationships and respect. Leading these kids becomes the result of investing in them over time.

Five ways to lead “throw-away” children:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

CONCLUSION

It takes time to make a difference in people. But, the greatest way to see progress is to find the ones that need it the most. If we will take the ones nobody else wants, God will raise them up to become the ones others would die to have.