

OPEN A DOOR...



DISCOVER WHAT
YOU CAN DO TO
OPEN A DOOR FOR A KID ...
TO SEE **JESUS** IN
A WHOLE NEW WAY.

A NEW KIND OF LEADER
Training adults to love and lead kids better.

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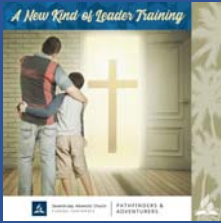


Seventh-day Adventist' Church
FLORIDA CONFERENCE

PATHFINDERS &
ADVENTURERS

1

KIDS MATTER



A New Kind of Leader

KIDS MATTER ... MORE THAN ADULTS

"Whoever welcomes a child in my name, welcomes me." Matthew 18:5

Do You Act Like Kids Matter?

- Your church doesn't grow because you _____ something. Your church grows when you _____ something about what you believe.
- You have to act on what you believe.

How Much Do Kids Matter?

- Kids matter _____ than adults.
- What you do for _____ matters more than what you do for _____.
- The brain of a child is built up by actual experiences.
 - Making deposits in someone's life when they're young, will earn more interest over time.

Does What You Do for Kids Matter?

- What _____ do for kids matters more than you think it does.
- What your _____ does for kids will keep your church from _____.
- What your church does for kids will keep Sabbath more interesting.
- What your church does for kids will make _____ better _____.
- What your church does for kids will _____ how they see _____.

You may be the best chance some kids have to _____ God.

What Can You Do to Show That Kids Matter?

- If you are not volunteering, _____.
- If you are volunteering some, consider volunteering more.
- If you are volunteering a lot, go _____ someone else to volunteer with you.

Key: Believe, Do, More, Kids, Adults, You, Church, Dying, Adults, Christians, Change, God, See, Start, Find

NOTES:

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Presenter:
FL Conference
Pathfinder & Adventurer Department

KIDS Matter

YOUNG PEOPLE Matter



Your church doesn't grow because
you **believe** something.

Your church grows when you **do**
something about what you believe.



KIDS MATTER

Do you **ACT** like
Kids Matter?



"It's easy to get **distracted**"

"Whoever **welcomes a child**
in my name welcomes me."

Matthew 18:5

"How you treat kids is a
reflection of how you treat me."



Not only do KIDS MATTER
But **KIDS MATTER MORE THAN ADULTS.**

What you do for kids matters more
than what you do for adults.

What you do for kids matters more
than you think it does.



What your **CHURCH** does for kids
will keep your church from dying.

What your **CHURCH** does for kids
will keep your Sabbaths more
interesting.



What your **CHURCH** does for kids
will make adults better Christians.

What your **CHURCH** does for kids
will change how they see God.



You may be **the best chance**
some kids have to **SEE** God.



What your DO for kids will transform the **culture** of your church

- Parents become more engaged
- Volunteers become more motivated
- Staff becomes more focused
- Everybody becomes more involved



If you're not volunteering, **start**.

If you are volunteering some, consider volunteering **more**.

If you are volunteering a lot, Then **find someone else to volunteer**.



Kids need a **NEW** Kind of Leader who will ...

VOLUNTEER to do SOMETHING MORE.



WARNING

"If you are a LEADER who believes that KIDS MATTER, at some point you will try to **CHANGE** some things."



Does your church ACT like kids matter?

What if your church started acting like what they do for kids is MORE important than anything else they do?

What does your church do to make kids feel valued/welcome at church?

What is your church doing for kids in the community? Should you do anything?

Based on what your church is doing, is it obvious that ALL Kids Matter? If not, what could your church do?

What activities are you already doing that you could invite community kids to?

What else could you do?

Does your church need more volunteers? How could you get more adults involved? Who will contact and invite them to help? To do what? For how long?

How could you do something more?

ACTION STEPS: *What are the THREE big things that you/your church could do to help kids feel like they MATTER?*

1.

2.

3.

2

**EVERY FAMILY
MATTERS**



A New Kind of Leader

EVERY FAMILY MATTERS ... REGARDLESS

*While the Church spends about 40 hours a year with kids and teens,
Parents spend about 3000 hours a year with those same kids and teens.*

Every Family Matters, regardless.

- Every person who is raising, _____, and parenting a kid or teenager matters.
_____.

Why Do Parents Matter?

- Every _____ matters because they matter to _____.
- Every parent matters because they matter to their _____.
- _____ parent matters because their kids matter to _____.

Why don't parents partner with the church?

- Families outside the church don't trust us.
- Families outside the church don't _____ us.
- Families outside the church don't get us.
- Families outside the church don't _____ us.

What can we do to help "build a bridge" to the family?

- We won't change the way families outside the church see us until we change the way we see them.
- Every parent wants to be a _____ parent.
- Every parent can _____ something more.
- Believe in parents potential and act like it's your mission to help every parent win.

Kids need A New Kind of Leader who will _____ with Parents.

When you adjust how you see every family, and you make every family matter (no matter what they look like), then they know you are on their side, and they will begin to see your church in a different kind of way.

KEY: Nurturing, Regardless, Parent, God, Kid, Every, Them, Believe, Need, Good, Do, Connect.

NOTES:

2 – Every **FAMILY** Matters



The **CHURCH** is strategically positioned in culture to remind us that **family** matters.

If every family matters, then we may need to consider the possibility that **every parent** (or guardian) matters.



Every person who is raising, nurturing, and parenting a kid or teenager matters.

Regardless.



Every parent matters because they matter to **God**.

Every parent matters because they matter to their **kid**.

Every parent matters because their kids matter to **them**.



What happens at **HOME** is more important than what happens at Church.

No one has more potential to **influence** a kid than a parent.

A parent isn't the **only** influence that a kid needs.



Truth ...

If parents don't think your church matters, you will have a hard time **influencing** their family.



Families outside the church
don't **TRUST** us.

Families outside the church
don't **BELIEVE** us.

Families outside the church
don't **GET** us.

Families outside the church
don't **NEED** us.



Consider this ...

Your church has one of two
perspectives.

It's **their** problem.
It's **our** mission.



We won't change the way
families **outside** the church see
us until we change the way
we see them.



Two Truths ...

Every parent
wants to be a **good** parent.

Every parent
can do something **more**.



Kids need
A NEW Kind of Leader
Who will ...

CONNECT with a PARENT.



Every parent needs ...

To have an **ally**,
so they don't feel alone

To know what to do today,
so they have a **plan**.

To see how they are winning,
so they have **hope**.



What is your ideal picture of what a family is/looks like?

How does that picture compare to the families you know in your church and in your community?

How important is what happens at home in a kid's life?

How does your church ACT like what happens at home is more important than what happens at church?

What if your church started acting like what happens at HOME is more important than what happens at CHURCH? What would be different? What would you need to start/stop doing?

What is your church doing to let families KNOW that they matter?

How can your church help families WIN? What might this look like?

What is your church doing to build bridges to and connect with PARENTS? What could you do?

How might your church influence a parent this week?

ACTION STEPS: *What are the THREE big things that you/your church could do to OPEN a DOOR for a FAMILY/PARENT?*

1.

2.

3.

3

**YOUR CHURCH
MATTERS**



A New Kind of Leader

YOUR CHURCH MATTERS ... BECAUSE IT'S A PLACE

“On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

Why does it matter for your _____ to exist?

- Your church matters because it's an _____ that helps you win at what really matters in life – Your relationship with God.
- Your church may be the _____ chance someone has to find a place to _____.
- Your job is to _____ and improve environments where kids, _____, and adults can effectively _____ with leaders and each other.

Why Improve Your Church Environment?

- People _____ like they belong when they _____ they are welcome.
- People feel like they _____ when they know it's for _____.
- People feel like they belong when they know they are _____.

What can you do to improve your church?

- We have to be intentional about influencing the hearts of kids of this generations.
- As a church, we can't make relationships happen; we can only create environments that make it easier to make relationships happen.

KEY: Church, ACTUAL PLACE, Best, Belong, Create, Teenagers, Connect, Feel, Know, Belong, Them, Known.

NOTES:

BIG IDEA: Kids Need A New Kind of Leader Who Will ... Improve the Environment.

3 – Your **CHURCH** Matters

Thought ...

You are surrounded by people in your **community** who don't think your church matters at all.



My church matters because ...

It's a **place** Where I can help other people And other people can help me To **win** at what really matters.



Your church is a place
(**physical location**)

Where you
(**an individual**)

Can help
(**get involved using your gifts and talents**)



And other people
(a community that loves you)

Can help
(use their gifts and talents)

You win
(keep moving in the right
direction)



At what really matters
(God, Jesus, family, relationships,
worth, life, purpose, worship,
truth, belonging, identity,
vocation, love, etc.)



Here's the point.

**It's important to think
about church as a place
simply because
kids need a place.**



You may be the best chance a kid will have to find a **place to belong**.



When you get serious about **influencing** the hearts of this generation, you start thinking about creating a visible, tangible **place** where kids know they belong.



You can't make **relationships** happen.
You can only create **environments** that make it easier for relationships to happen.
Improve Your ...
Environment



Kids feel like they **belong**
When they know they are
welcome.

Kids feel like they **belong**
when they know it's for
them.



Kids feel like they **belong**
When they know they are
known.

Do for a few kids what
you wish you could do for
every kid.



Kids need
A NEW Kind of Leader
Who will ...

IMPROVE the
ENVIRONMENT.



Why does your church matter?

Have you ever tried to convince someone that your church matters? What did you say?

How is your church doing at creating engaging environments for kids? Why is this important?

What simple changes could you make to create age specific, attractive spaces for kids?

What does your church do that sends the message to kids that you are prepared for and expecting them?

How can your church have a reputation that's more inviting to your community?

How is your church helping connect kids to adults so kids can be known? Where can this best happen?

What are some ways your church could help adults connect to kids on a regular basis?

What are some ways your church could help adults connect to kids/families in your community?

ACTION STEPS: *What are the THREE big things that you/your church could do to help a Kid/Family find a PLACE?*

1.

2.

3.



A STRATEGY MATTERS



A New Kind of Leader

A STRATEGY MATTERS ... MORE THAN YOU THINK

*Is what you do with kids and teens characterized by ...
strategic steps that lead kids somewhere, or by random activities?*

What is a Strategy?

- A plan of action with an end in mind.
- Knowing what you want to accomplish, and exploring the action steps to make it happen.
- A strategy links what you have to where you are going.

What do you want kids to grow up to believe?

- Your _____ matters more than your _____.
 - It's your strategy, not your mission, that _____ your _____.
- Good intentions, without an intentional strategy, won't lead anyone very far.
- You're not leading _____ anywhere unless you actually have a _____.

What do you want kids to _____?

- What do you want their faith and character to look like when they grow up?
- Kids need A New Kind of Leader who will show up to keep them from being stuck.
- What if everything you do leads kids to love God, Others, and Life?

Where do you want kids to _____?

- What is the optimal environment in your church where kids can grow in their relationship with Jesus?

Play as a Team

- _____ is determined by strategy.
 - Strategy is the difference in a team running the ball down a field and scoring, and a group of disorganized players running in circles.

KEY: Strategy, Mission, Determines, Success, Kids, Plan, Become, Be, Success

NOTES:

BIG IDEA: Kids Need A New Kind of Leader Who Will Play as a Team.

4 - **STRATEGY**

What is your **strategy**?



Strategy – a plan of action
with an end in mind

It's your **strategy**,
not your mission,
that determines your **success**.



Good intentions without an
intentional strategy won't
lead anyone very far.

You aren't really leading kids
anywhere if you don't have
a **plan**.



What do you want kids to
become?



One big idea: **LOVE**

Love God
Love Others
Love Life



Where do you want kids to
be?



What is the **optimal environment** in your church where kids can **grow** in their relationship with Jesus?



Leader who play as a team will ...
Articulate the common language
Stay **focused** on what matters most
Move kids toward **positive relationships**
Champion whatever needs to **change**
Follow the leader



Kids need a **NEW** Kind of Leader who will ...
PLAY as a TEAM.



At some point, if you really believe kids, family, and your church matter, you will try to change something!

How are the things you do for kids CHARACTERIZED ... Random Steps or Strategic Plans? Which should it be?

What do you want to ACCOMPLISH in a kids life? When a kid is all “grown up” what would they look like?

What are the steps that will help you/your church invest in kids in such a way that they look like that?

What do you want kids to BECOME? (Direction)

Where do you want kids to BE? (Destination)

Which ENVIRONMENT is most important to help kids BE and BECOME who they ought to be? Which environment will put kids in contact with a caring, consistent adult? Does it exist or need to be created?

What is your STRATEGY? (What needs to change? What do you need to start/stop? What is your plan?)

What if you started acting like you aren't leading kids anywhere if you don't have a PLAN?

ACTION STEPS: What are the THREE big things that you/your church could do to develop a PLAN for kids/families?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

5

**THIS WEEK
MATTERS**



A New Kind of Leader

THIS WEEK MATTERS ... *WHEN IT'S REPEATED*

Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

This week matters:

- When you _____ it to next week, and the next.
- Even when you don't _____ it matters.
 - Keep investing in what you can't see, and trusting that time will do what God designed it to do.

If you want to influence a kid's future, you have to resist the temptation to take shortcuts.

- What if you start acting like what you do this _____ matters more when you do it _____ week.

Kids need A _____ Kind of Leader who will _____ showing up.

- Kids can't see God, but they can see people who follow God.
- Consistently show up to help a kid:
 - _____ God.
 - _____ to God.
 - Talk about _____.
 - _____ for God.

A New Kind of Leader will keep showing up weekly because they know it's the best way to open a door for a kid's future.

- You have the potential to open a door for a child.
- It's not about what you can do, it's about what God can do through you.
- It's not your job to change them, it's your responsibility to love them.

KEY: Add, Think, Week, Every, New, Keep, Hear, Pray, God, Live

NOTES:

Big IDEA: Kids Need A New Kind of Leader Who Will ... Keep Showing Up.

5 – **THIS WEEK** Matters



There are approximately
936 weeks
from the time a baby
is born until they grow up
and move out.



This week matters when
you **make it count.**

This week matters when
you **add it to next week**
and the next ...



Some things take **time**.
Some things take **repetition**.

Some things can't be
accomplished in a **week ...**



This week matters **even**
when you don't think it
matters.

WHAT you do this week
Matters More
When You
DO IT EVERY WEEK.



Kids need
A NEW Kind of Leader
Who will ...

KEEP SHOWING UP.



You can **show up** to help a kid do at least four things:

- 1) **Hear from God** by navigating the Bible, listening to stories of faith, and personalizing Scripture.
- 2) **Pray to God** together and learn to pray personally and privately for the needs of others.



3) **Talk about God** with friends and other adults who trust.

4) **Live for God** through giving, service, praise, and obedience.



Kids need
A NEW Kind of Leader
Who will ...

KEEP SHOWING UP.



Who kept “showing up” in your life growing up? Which kid/family needs you to show up right now?

What does it mean, practically speaking, to “show up” for a kid/family? How often should you show up?

What does this phrase *“This week matters ... when you make it count”* make you think?

What’s your church doing to make each week count as you work with kids/families? What could you do?

What do you think about this phrase? *“Kids can’t see God, but they can see the people who follow God.”*

Who is watching you to find out what God looks like? How does that make you feel?

How is your church doing at intentionally connecting kids/adults and families? How could they do better?

Working with kids/families isn’t easy, but when repeated weekly it makes a difference. Why is this?

Where do you need to “keep investing in what you can’t see” as you work with young people?

ACTION STEPS: *What are the THREE big things that you/your church could do THIS WEEK to SHOW UP for a KID?*

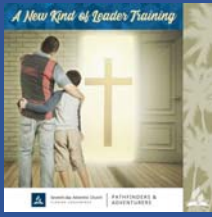
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**TRUTH
MATTERS**



A New Kind of Leader

TRUTH MATTERS ... WHEN LOVE MATTERS

Reimagine truths until they matter to a young person - Make Truth Relevant!

Does Truth Matter?

- What the Bible says is true.
- Every _____ is not in the Bible.
- Every truth does not matter _____.
- Every truth does not matter to everyone.
 - Truth always matters, but it matters more when it matters to young people.

Relevance – _____ to the matter at hand.

- You need to understand a kids world if you want to have _____ in their life.
- The _____ you know the kids, the better you can influence them with the truth.
- Connect what is true to what is real in a kid's world.
- Relevance doesn't compromise the integrity of a truth, it elevates the value of a truth.

There is a difference in teaching the Bible to kids, and teaching kids the Bible.

- You need to know, understand, and love a child, before you expect to teach them anything that has a lasting impact.

Truth matters when _____ matters. Love has to come first.

- You can't speak the truth in love if you don't love who you are _____ to.
- It's easier to correct what is wrong, than it is to cultivate what is right.

Empathy – the ability to press _____ on your _____ thoughts and feelings long enough to explore someone else's thoughts and feelings.

- You may have to pause to _____.
 - Figure out how to see and feel what kids do.
- You may have to pause to _____.
 - Show up for kids in their world, if you want them to show up in the church.

KEY: Truth, Equally, Connecting, Influence, Better, Love, Speaking, Pause, Own, Imagine, Interact

NOTES:

Big IDEA: Kids need A New Kind of Leader who will ... Think Like Someone Else.

6 – The **TRUTH** Matters



A few things to consider about the Truth ...

The **Bible** is True.
Every Truth is Not in the Bible.
Every Truth Does Not Matter **Equally**.
Every Truth Does Not Matter to **Everyone**.



So your **job** as a leader is to take a truth that matters and ...

reword it,
reframe it,
repackage it,
reimagine it,

Until it **matters** to a child or teenager.



You need to
UNDERSTAND
A Kid's **World**
If you want to have
INFLUENCE
In a Kid's **LIFE.**



What if the best way
to make truth matter more
in the life of a teenager
is to **make sure**
the teenager matters more
in your life?



There's a big difference in
teaching the Bible to kids, and
teaching kids the Bible.

You can't speak the truth in
love if you don't love who
you are speaking to.



You primarily have **influence** with a child or teenager in one of the following ways:

Power – you are physically stronger

Authority – you are in charge

Love – you have a relationship



Kids need A NEW Kind of Leader who will ...

THINK like Someone Else.



Here's another way of saying it ... You NEED to ...

see what they see

read what they read

hear what they hear

feel what they feel

know what they know



You **NEED** to do One of Two Things ...

IMAGINE INTERACT



When you **IMAGINE** a kid's world you ...

- pause to consider how they are **feeling**
- pause to learn what they are **experiencing**
- pause before you assume their **motive**
- pause to anticipate what they are **thinking**



When you **INTERACT** with a kid you ...

- pause to **play** a game
- pause to **listen** to a joke
- pause to **eat** a meal
- pause to **watch** a talent show



Loving a child or teenager will require that you **do** something and **go** somewhere.

IF you want kids to show up at your church to learn truth, you will need to **show up** in their world and learn about them.



If you want the truth to matter more, then make **love** matter more.



Kids need
A NEW Kind of Leader
Who will ...

THINK like someone else.



How important is it to understand a kid's world if you want to influence a kid? Why?

What if the best way to make the truth matter more in the life of a kid is to make sure that the kid matters more in your life? Practically speaking, what does this mean?

What do you think this means ... "Truth always matters, but it matters more when it matters to them"?

What does it mean to make the truth relevant to kids? How can we do this?

What is the goal of teaching truth to kids? Information? Transformation? Application? Other?

Do you see the difference between "teaching kids the Bible" and "teaching the Bible to kids"? Why is this important? Which one do you tend to do?

What if we started with what we have in common when we teach kids: fears, joys, challenges, and the need for love? And helped kids see how the Bible addresses these areas?

What would happen if we paused long enough to think like a kid? And intentionally IMAGINED or INTERACTED with their world to package truth in a way that mattered and made sense to a kid?

Bible truths must be taught in the context of a loving relationship to stick. Agree/Disagree? Why?

ACTION STEPS: *What are the THREE big things that you/your church could do to OPEN a DOOR to the TRUTH?*

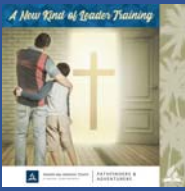
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**DOING GOOD
MATTERS**



A New Kind of Leader

DOING GOOD MATTERS ... IF YOU'RE HUMAN

Every child has a divine capacity to believe, to imagine, to love, to care, to relate, to trust, to reason, to improve, and to lead.

Why Does Doing Good Matter?

If God is _____, and God made people in His _____, then people were made to do good; and that includes kids and teenagers.

Humans were made in the image of God.

If you believe this, it will change:

- How you see young people.
- How you see God.
- How they see themselves.
- How they see God.

What if you start acting like what a kid _____ can actually affect what a kid _____?

If you want a kid's faith to grow significantly, give them something significant to do.

Why Do Good?

- Doing good is a response to the gospel, not a _____ for the gospel.
- Doing good reflects the nature of _____, it doesn't earn you points with God.
- Doing good stretches your faith. It's not a replacement for faith.
- Doing good _____ the image of God in every kid.
- Doing good connects every kid to a _____ story.

Teenagers are experience magnets.

- The more we learn about different phases, the more we are convinced that serving becomes a bigger deal as a kid gets _____.
- _____ need to experience teens serving.
- Teens need to serve alongside _____.
- Adults need to see _____ serving.

How will you enlist teens to serve?

KEY: Good, Image, Does, Believes, Substitute, Jesus, Sparks, Bigger, Older, Kids, Adults, Teens

NOTES:

Big IDEA: Kids Need A New Kind of Leader Who Will ... Enlist a Teenager to Serve.

7 – **DOING GOOD** Matters



Stop for a moment and think about it. If every kid is created in the image of God, then every kid has a divine **capacity**.

...

To believe, imagine, love, care, relate, trust, reason, improve, and lead.



It's easy to **think** that because they aren't ...
old enough
smart enough
mature enough
important enough
or even spiritual enough
they can't really do anything **significant**.



If God is good, and
God made people in His image,

Then people were made
to do good ... and that includes
kids and teenagers.



When you **remember** that
every kid is made in the image
of God, it can change ...

How you see **them**
How you see **God**



When you remember that
every kid is made in the image
of God, and you **give them**
opportunities to do good, it can
change ...

How they see **themselves**
How they see **God**



What a kid **DOES** can actually **AFFECT** what a kid Believes.

One of the best ways to stimulate faith is to give someone an opportunity to have a personal **ministry**.



If you want a kid's **faith** to grow significantly, give them something significant to do.

Sometimes kids will understand a little more about God when they **do something** God made them to do.



Doing good **sparks** the image of God in every kid.

Doing good **connects** every kid to a bigger story.



Kids need to experience **teenagers** serving.

Teenagers need to serve alongside **adults**.

Adults need to see teenagers **serv**ing.



Kids need A NEW Kind of Leader who will ...

ENLIST teenagers to SERVE.



How important is it to remember that kids are human and created in the image of God ... to Do Good?

Why is it that when a kid has an opportunity to Do Good it can change the way they see God/themselves?

What if you/your church started acting like what a kid DOES ... influences what a kid believes?

What if your church assisted/encouraged kids to serve? To start a personal ministry? And Provided Funding?

Serving is a big deal and kids, at every age, should be encouraged to serve. What might this look like?

Doing Good as a teenager is even more important. How can the church create opportunities for teens?

What can you plan to create opportunities for older kids to serve with younger kids? Why is this important?

What can you plan to create opportunities for adults to serve alongside teens? Why is this important?

What if you acted like, *"If you want a kid's faith to grow significantly then give a kid something significant to do"*?

ACTION STEPS: *What are the THREE big things that you/your church could do to OPEN a DOOR for a KID to DO GOOD?*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

BIG IDEA: Kids Need A New Kind of Leader Who Will ... Enlist a Teenager to Serve.

