

# 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



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**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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# A New Kind of Leader



Presenter:  
FL Conference  
Pathfinder & Adventurer Department

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**KIDS** Matter  
**YOUNG PEOPLE** Matter



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

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



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**KIDS MATTER**

Do you **ACT** like  
Kids Matter?



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"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."



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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.



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

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



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

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



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



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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



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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**.



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

**VOLUNTEER to do SOMETHING MORE.**



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**WARNING**

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



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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:**

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## # 2 – Every **FAMILY** Matters



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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.



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

**Regardless.**



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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**.



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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.



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Truth ...

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



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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.



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Consider this ...

Your church has one of two  
**perspectives.**

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



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



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Two Truths ...

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

Every parent  
can do something **more**.



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

**CONNECT** with a **PARENT**.



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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**.



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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:

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**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.



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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.



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

Where you  
(**an individual**)

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



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**And other people**  
(a community that loves you)

**Can help**  
(use their gifts and talents)

**You win**  
(keep moving in the right  
direction)



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



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**Here's the point.**

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



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



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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.



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



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

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



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**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.



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

**IMPROVE the**  
**ENVIRONMENT.**



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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.



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# 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:

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



# 4 - **STRATEGY**

What is your **strategy**?



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**Strategy** – a plan of action  
with an end in mind

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



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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**.



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What do you want kids to  
**become?**



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One big idea: **LOVE**

Love God  
Love Others  
Love Life



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Where do you want kids to  
**be?**



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



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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



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

**PLAY as a TEAM.**



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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:**

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

# 5 – **THIS WEEK** Matters



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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

**KEEP SHOWING UP.**



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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.



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

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



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

**KEEP SHOWING UP.**



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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?*

1.

2.

3.