

What Can Today's Children's Ministry Offer Parents or Grandparents?

Discussion prompts about possibilities and vision

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Today's children's ministry (CM) faces significant challenges from a community of families who "come to church" with little biblical knowledge, a possibly conflicted sense of what is right or wrong, and an increasing amount of social and psychological challenges. We must do as Jesus and the Apostle Paul did: we must observe and listen in order to understand how best to lead people to God who loves them and wants to become their mighty fortress and solid rock of their lives!

To have a good CM curriculum is very good, but knowing how to specifically minister to today's children is critical! The CM team members need to "translate" the curriculum into the "language" of the children who are dropped off at our ministry. Here are some fictitious characters who might walk through your doors on a Sunday. Use these character descriptions to stimulate discussions about how you can offer them and their parents or grandparents help as you direct them to Jesus.

Meet Douglas



Douglas' mother drank quite heavily when he was being formed. It's not his fault, but now he has trouble concentrating and sitting still. He gets mad easily too. What can today's children's ministry offer him?

Meet Michael



Michael's life has been filled with pain and loss since he was a young child. Soon after he was born, his parents divorced. He lived with his mom until she committed suicide. Now, at the age of 2, he lives in a foster home waiting to be adopted. What can today's children's ministry offer him?

Meet Todd And Ricky



Todd is a single dad who does all he can to keep his job and care for his little son, Ricky. He is busy working and yet tries to spend time with Ricky during weekends. What can today's children's ministry offer him?

Meet Scott And James



Scott and James are best friends. They come from strong homes in which both parents have worked hard at developing Christian standards. Scott and James are only children and are both quite independent and advanced mentally. What can today's children's ministry offer them?

Meet Christie



Christie is a sixth grader with confidence and beauty. She is one of the most popular girls at school and at church. She tends to be a little flirtatious and yet still keeps her standards high. What can today's children's ministry offer her?

Meet Trisha And Alexis



Trisha is a single mom in distress. She is a Christian and yet she has many doubts and fears now that she is alone with her beautiful girl, Alexis. What can today's children's ministry offer her?

Meet Steven



Steven is disabled. He is confined to a wheelchair except when others help him out. Both legs are disabled. His parents have been strong, and yet they feel the pressures of such a responsibility. What can today's children's ministry offer him?

Meet David



David works with his father on their family farm. He is doing everything a man does at the age of 10. He is confident and knows the value of hard work. What can today's children's ministry offer him?

Meet Jennie And Christopher



Jennie and Christopher are twins. Their parents are good parents. Both Jennie and Christopher come to Sunday School and evening programs. The parents enjoy some time "off" during those times. What can today's children's ministry offer them?

Meet Becky



Becky is a brain! At age 7, she can work just about any computer program. Her parents are both professional businesspeople but have done a good job in training her to be independent and nice. What can today's children's ministry offer her?

Meet Stacy



Stacy is a busy mom who operates a daycare in her home. She is married and does this as an outreach to her community and for some additional cash. She is a wonderful woman of God, but she gets drained quite easily. What can today's children's ministry offer her?

Meet Lance



Lance is troubled. He finds little motivation in anything. His parents are both busy in their own jobs. Lance comes to church periodically. What can today's children's ministry offer him?