



Introduction to the Kidmin Covenant

A Reflective Journey for Walking with Jesus in Ministry

Ministry to children is a high calling—filled with joy, energy, challenges, and incredible impact. But it can also be exhausting, lonely, and discouraging at times if we aren't rooted in something deeper than our calendars and never-ending to do lists. I've met many passionate leaders who started strong, full of energy and ideas, only to burn out, get discouraged, or lose their sense of calling. Not because they didn't love kids or the church—but because they neglected something crucial: *the care of their own soul*. I know too well that feeling as your joy of ministry secretly starts to slip away, even as no one around can tell a difference in you. Been there. Felt that.

Here's the hard truth: Children's ministry isn't just about what you do—it's about who you're becoming. The health of your ministry begins with the health of your walk with God. And in a world that celebrates busyness and productivity, it takes *intentionality* to stay grounded, humble, and faithful. **That's why I wrote the Kidmin Covenant.** I began this journey because I needed it first. Now, I want to encourage you with these same commitments I made—and continue to strive toward. Over the next 12 chapters of this devotional prayer and study guide, I invite you to join me on this journey of walking with Jesus as we minister to kids and the leaders who serve them.

The Kidmin Covenant

1. *I will start each day in prayer—first for my own walk with God, then for my family, and finally for my ministry.*
2. *I will be in the Word daily—first to grow spiritually, then to grow in biblical knowledge for teaching others.*
3. *I will submit my daily plans to the Lord, seeking His priorities before mine so that I remain intentional.*
4. *I will reach out relationally each day to at least one friend, relative, or volunteer to encourage them so people are always put first.*
5. *I will teach from and with a Bible so my students know and see the source of my teaching.*
6. *I will be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.*
7. *I will maintain a teachable spirit and always be eager to learn, grow, and invite correction and suggestions.*
8. *I will be quick to overlook an offense and even quicker to forgive.*
9. *I will do everything as if I am doing it for the Lord, because I am.*
10. *I will pass on any praise I receive to those who helped, inspired, guided, or assisted—and ultimately to Jesus.*
11. *I will honor rest as a gift from God, not as an afterthought—because rest is part of faithfulness.*
12. *I will measure success by obedience, not by numbers or applause.*

This is not designed to be a guilt trip. It isn't a performance checklist. Rather, it is a *lifeline*—a personal set of commitments I've made to help me stay spiritually healthy and fruitful in ministry. These are the rhythms and values I've learned (sometimes the hard way) are essential to longevity, joy, and impact. They come not from someone who's still learning. Still growing. Still getting up each day and re-committing to live by these truths.

So what is *The Kidmin Covenant*?

It's a series of twelve intentional commitments designed to help ministry leaders remain inwardly healthy so they can be outwardly fruitful. These aren't just nice ideas—they're a blueprint for a ministry that pleases the Lord.

Each of the following chapters will unpack one of these twelve statements. They are written to be *interactive, reflective, and practical*. Please don't just read them. **Engage** with them. **Pray** through them. **Wrestle** with them. **Write** in the reflective boxes. Underline verses. Doodle. Journal. Highlight. Whatever it takes to slow yourself down and *let God speak*.

The goal isn't agreement—it's transformation. As you go, I encourage you to keep these four practices in mind:

1. **Read prayerfully.** Invite the Holy Spirit to speak personally to your heart.
2. **Write reflectively.** Don't just think—journal. Writing helps us process and makes action more likely.
3. **Apply intentionally.** Every chapter ends with prompts to help you live out what you've learned.
4. **Walk relationally.** Don't go alone—share the journey with someone who can pray for you, encourage you, and hold you accountable.

In fact, why not invite a friend to read through this with you? A fellow leader, a pastor, or a mentor. You might enjoy the journey even more when you share it with someone. If you've ever been inspired by the friendships in *The Lord of the Rings*—the way Frodo, Sam, Aragorn, and the others walked together through peril and purpose—then you'll understand why I invite you to join a fellowship of your own.

Not the Fellowship of the Ring, but the **Fellowship of the King**. Let this journey draw you closer to Jesus. Let it strengthen your heart for ministry. Let it anchor you in what truly matters. And let it remind you—every day—that you were called to this for a reason, and you are not alone.

As Gandalf once said: "*All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.*" So let's use it well. Let the quest begin.

Because Jesus Loves Kids Ministers too,

Pastor Karl Bastian

