

Since your child has shown an interest in being a part of God's plan to impact the world for Christ, you're probably wondering what you can do to be an encourager and a guide.

This guide may help!

Raising up the next generation of Christian workers is best started in childhood.



- Christian researcher George Barna has studied the importance of developing a biblical worldview and values in children. His study confirmed what previous studies had shown: *"By the age of nine, most of the moral and spiritual foundations of a child are in place..."* [Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions by George Barna. p 58]
- In one study of career missionaries, 4 out of 5 said they knew by age 12 that God was calling them into missions.

Raising up the next generation of Christian workers is best done in families in partnership with the local church.

The people with the most touch points in a child's life are in a position to have the most impact.

- This certainly includes dads and moms and grandparents as well as brothers and sisters.
- This also includes pastors and teachers in your church.



God is calling parents to partner with those in the church to mobilize and equip kids to be world changers.

That's why we've put together the following ideas and resources to equip you as a parent for this very important calling.

What you can do together...

As a child grows older, God will make his plan clearer and clearer. Here are some things you and your child can do as s/he is seeking the Lord's direction:

1. **Encourage your child to spend time listening to God every day by reading the Bible and praying. This may be done by oneself at times. Or it could be done during time spent with a parent or together as a whole family.**

Bible reading.

Some kids simply choose a Bible book and read a portion each day.

Others use a daily devotional guide. Some devotionals are books [such as *The Wonder Devotional Book*; cefpress.com], others are online [such as kids4truth.com/Devos]. One good way to know what's available is to do a search on the internet or visit your local Christian store.



Prayer. Most kids need structure when they pray. Some follow A-C-T-S: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Others use P-R-A-Y: Pray, Repent, Ask, Yield. Some kids write things they pray for, then write the answer next to them. After trying different ways a child will find what works best.

2. **Challenge your kids to make a concrete commitment to serve the Lord in any way He directs.**



This might be done in family devotions or in more casual one-on-one time. You will know that a child is learning to *love* serving when s/he doesn't wait for a chance to serve but seeks for ways to serve.

3. **Enlist support for kids after they make a commitment.**
 - Inform relatives so they can provide prayer support and encouragement.
 - Inform your Pastor and mission leaders so they can be praying for your child. Then he said to his disciples, "*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*" Matthew 9.37,38
 - Inform your church's children's leader and teachers of your child's commitment. Also, let the youth leader know about your child's commitment when he/she transitions into that ministry.

4. **Lead your child in praying for people in ministry.**

Sign up to receive the prayer letters of international workers and pray for them. Pray for pastors, church planters and other Christian workers you know.



5. **Support your child as s/he shares the Good News with friends and family.**

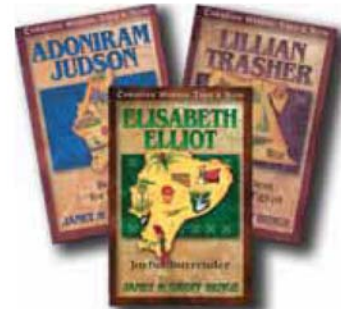
The children's ministry in your church may offer training in how to share one's faith. In addition, check out these child-appropriate witnessing tools:

- *Gospel Flipper-flapper*
www.cefpres.com
- *God Loves You* evangelism booklet
www.gospellight.com
- *Have You Heard of...The Four Fantastic Facts* booklet
www.campuscrusade.com
- *The Good News in Color for Kids*
www.dZresources.org



6. **Provide your child with biographies of Christian workers. These people can serve as heroes of faith your child will want to emulate. Several collections are available:**

- *Heroes for Young Readers*
ywampublishing.com
- *Christian Heroes: Then and Now.* ywampublishing.com



- *Torchlighters Heroes of Faith* [DVD series].Torchlighters.org



Big Ideas *for growing Christian kids*



Many resources are available to assist you in raising up a WorldChanger. Some of these are for the child and some are for the parent.

They come in many formats: books, magazines, websites, DVD sets, etc. Since resources come and go, you can find a current list at the website of DiscipleZone Resources. Go to www.dZresources.org.

If you discover a great resource that is not listed, please contact Rev. Dennis Barta
dennis.barta@gracecma.org

He'll review your suggestion and consider adding it to the list.

Important Beliefs and Practices for Effective Ministry at Any Age

- #1: Lost people matter to God. He wants them found.
- #2: Prayer is the first work of the people of God.
- #3: Everything I have belongs to God. I am only a steward.
- #4: Knowing and obeying God's Word is the only way to have true success.
- #5: Completing the Great Commission requires the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple.
- #6: We accomplish God's work only by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- #7: Achieving God's purposes means taking faith-filled risks.

Adapted for children from the Seven Core Values of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.