

## WORKING WITH KIDS

### Introduction

How can one stay young?—by continuing to grow

How can you effectively minister to children and youth?

- I. Perspective—a point of view; how we see things (John 13:1-17)
  - A. It begins with a proper perspective of:
    1. Who you are—servants  
Jesus even served Judas by washing his feet (John 13:1, 13).
    2. Who they are—the ones we are to serve (teens and parents)
  - B. Understand that God is no respecter of persons. He uses the ones who are willing.
    1. Woman at the well
    2. Lepers
    3. Rich
    4. Poor
    5. Beggars
    6. Rulers
  - C. God is interested in willingness, not age (1 Samuel 2:18-26).
  - D. It is not just a job, it is a ministry
  - E. What is your perspective of teens, children, and those with whom you work?
- II. Purpose
  - A. What is your purpose as a youth worker?
  - B. Why do you do what you do?
  - C. What is your purpose statement? Writing one will help you keep a clear focus.
  - D. Our ultimate purpose is to glorify God in all we do (1 Corinthians 10:31).
  - E. There are some foundations for formulating a purpose.
    1. Fear the Lord (Proverbs 1:7).
    2. Disassociate from the wicked (Proverbs 1:10).
- III. Plan
  - A. Develop a plan of action so that you can effectively minister to those with whom you are working.
  - B. What are your goals and objectives?
    1. Salvation
    2. Bible knowledge and application (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
    3. Spirit-filled life
    4. Christian growth
    5. Personal commitment—loyalty
    6. Christian living
    7. Christian service
    8. Strong family

—taken from *“Focus on Youth”* by Glen Percifield
  - C. Plan to interact with the youth and to get involved in the teens’ lives.



## IV. Passion

- A. When working with teenagers, you must have a sense of enthusiasm and excitement about what you are doing.
- B. Have a desire to serve the youth of today, for they are an integral part of our ministry now, not just our future ministry.
- C. Ask God for a passion or burden for your teens.

## V. Problems

- A. Every teen has problems, and you can help them through their difficult times.
- B. If you can identify with those you serve, as Christ did (Luke 2:41-52), you will be able to minister more effectively.
- C. There are many problems teens are experiencing.
  1. Loneliness
  2. Doubt
  3. Fear
  4. Acceptance
  5. Discouragement
  6. Anger
  7. Bitterness
  8. Lack of love
- D. Stress the values found in 2 Peter 1:5-7.
  1. Faith—more than lip service of a Biblical belief; a behavior
  2. Virtue—moral excellence
  3. Knowledge—of God (Hosea 4:6; Proverbs 23:12)
  4. Temperance—self-control; moderation
  5. Patience—perseverance
  6. Godliness—seeking God first (Joshua 24:15)
  7. Brotherly love—kindness
  8. Charity—not a feeling but an action
- E. Because problems will arise quite often, teach teens to use Biblical principles.



## VI. Patience (Ephesians 6:1-4)

- A. "Patience is a virtue."
- B. Depend upon God for strength (Ecclesiastes 12:1-8).
- C. Develop a relationship with God.

## VII. Prayer

- A. Emphasize prayer often.
- B. Through you example, teens can learn about the power of prayer (Acts 12).
- C. Ask God to create in you:
  1. Self-control/right attitude
  2. Endurance/patience
  3. Love
  4. Understanding
  5. Discernment

## VIII. Persistence

- A. Working with teens can be extremely discouraging as well as delightful.
- B. Because things do not usually happen overnight, keep at it.
- C. "More is caught than taught."—Howard Hendricks
- D. Teach by example in word and deed (Deuteronomy 6:1-25).
- E. Practice what you preach. Be faithful!