

'Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.' And He took them up in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:14-16

Praying FOR Your Kids

The first step in effectively teaching your kids to pray and leading them to an altar call is to pray for those kids outside of the classroom and maintain your personal prayer life. YOU have to be a person of prayer. YOU have to stand in the gap for them not just with physical means (food, safety, relationships and fun), but also in the spirit (pray, fast, love).

PRAY FOR God to give you a burden. PRAY FOR God to open doors of opportunity to lead your kids in prayer. PRAY FOR wisdom and anointing to teach your kids to pray. PRAY FOR yourself to be the example of prayer those children need. PRAY FOR the salvation of your kids.

Praying WITH Your Kids

Typically an altar call is more effective in a kid's church setting than that of a classroom setting. HOWEVER, that is not the rule, let the Spirit of God lead even in the classroom!

Don't "Pop the Clutch" – this happens when a child isn't ready to let go, but we force them to way too fast while pressing on the gas way too hard. Let the children grow in prayer and in their walk with God. As children's ministers, we are to patiently train them to pray, and we must be sensitive to what God wants to do in any given circumstance.

Ask the children what they want to pray for. Don't assume! Show you care for their burden and desires. Discern if the child is being led further by God to pray and if they have a continuing interest in praying. If not, pray for them to be blessed and go to another child.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE! We produce what we are – the ancient and everlasting principle of sowing and reaping. We will produce "after our own kind."

When training kids to pray we don't say "You need to pray." When we need to train our kids how to tie their shoes do we say "You need to tie your shoes"? NO! WE SHOW THEM HOW 800 TIMES!

Be careful of hand placement and voice volume when praying with children. Remember, these are children, use words and concepts they will understand when praying with them. Get on their level, in vocabulary and physically.

Ask kids if they got the Holy Ghost. Don't tell. Lead the conversation. Let them share their experiences. Encourage questions. Never let a child leave the altar discouraged. Always encourage them to just keep praying and that God hears us, wants us and loves us.

The Lift Kit of Prayer:

Close your eyes – God is a Spirit, you can't see Him anyway. If we look around we will be distracted from communicating with the only person who can give us the Holy Ghost. Focus on Jesus! Don't let the devil distract you from getting your blessing!

Lift up your head – Psalm 24:7, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in." and Luke 21:28, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Lift up your hands – Lamentations 3:41, "Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens."

Lift up your voice – Isaiah 40:9, "...lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" and Acts 2 – they couldn't speak in tongues if they weren't already speaking.