

Let Them Come

How to grow a kids ministry
that lives out these
words of Jesus





Let Them Come

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Notes for the person facilitating this training are written in blue. It's important to read through all exercises and all blue text instructions when preparing to facilitate this training.

All videos can be previewed prior to the training session but be aware that this course has a two month limited access. So the purchasing of the course, the previewing of the material and the running of the training needs to be completed within a two month period.

The timing of each exercise is a guide only. For example, a larger group may need more time in sharing ideas from multiple groups after a brainstorming exercise.

Allocate two and half hours for this training, with a thirty minute break after the first hour.

Set Up:

- Set up chairs around tables (ideal 6-7 per table)
- Cover tables with paper
- Place coloured markers on each table
- Place wrapped lollies on tables as treats (optional)

Introduction:

- Welcome people.
- Indicate timing of breaks and essential information for all in attendance (toilet locations, emergency exits...).
- Begin by committing the day to God in prayer.
- Encourage everyone to introduce themselves to those in their group prior to beginning Exercise #1.
- Read the following introduction (i.e. the Bible passage in the blue box plus the text that follows) prior to setting groups started on Exercise #1.

Let The Children Come

Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

~Matthew 19:13-15

Large crowds followed Jesus everywhere (Matthew 19:2), hanging off his every word. Clambering to be healed. Even the rich and famous were seeking him (Matthew 19:16).

So when parents brought their little children to Jesus the disciples rebuked them. 'Do not waste the Master's time with little children.' But then Jesus rebukes them. 'God's kingdom belongs to these little ones. Let them come!'

EXERCISE #1 (group exercise, 10 minutes)

1. How might a church hinder a child in coming to Jesus?
2. When might a church need to apologise to children for hindering them in coming to Jesus?

Monitor responses so that participants do not lay blame, or share specific, sensitive information about abuse children may have experienced. Encourage them to speak generally about things that may hinder children in coming to Jesus. No need for groups to share with each other. This aims to get people thinking about what Jesus' warning might look like.

PLAY VIDEO #1: Let The Children Come

LET THEM COME - TALK OUTLINE

Come to Jesus

Through the Word

Word taught at

- Church
- Home

Transformational vs Informational

- Call to respond
- What's God got for you today? (everyday 'God talk' by parents/significant adults)
- What do you like about this story?

God matters most

EXERCISE #2 (group exercise, 10 mins. brainstorming, 5 minutes sharing)

1. Parents are God's chosen primary disciplers. God chooses to use parents as a key way to bring children to himself. In one colour, brainstorm all the ways you already support and encourage parents to actively disciple their kids.
2. In a second colour, brainstorm other things you could do as a church.

Encourage groups to capture their ideas of the things they already do (words and pictures) on the paper on their tables using one colour.

Use different colours to add things they don't currently do, but could do in the future.

Collect these brainstorming sheets for future exploration post the training.

After 10 mins. ask each group to share their top three suggestions on how to support and encourage parents in discipling their children.

EXERCISE #3 (individual/group exercise, 20 mins.)

1. Read the Effective Ministries article, Partnering With Parents - Some Ideas, by Sarie King (Appendage #1). This article provides practical suggestions on how to encourage and support parents in their role as primary disciplers.

Effective Ministries has a growing number of helpful articles about discipling children.
<https://www.effectiveministry.org/childrens-ministry/>

It may be helpful to read this article and the list below out loud to ensure everyone begins the third activity on the following page at the same time.

2. Read the list of suggestions below on ways to encourage, resource and equip parents in your church to disciple their children.

Daily

- Pray for parents
- Pray for children
- Provide daily Bible reading plans (available on Kidswise, see below #)

Weekly

- Kids spot in church
- What will my child learn? (given out at the beginning of each term)
- Question of the week (sent home for families to discuss)
- Provide weekly Bible plans or bookmarks (available on Kidswise, see below #)
- Intentionally equip parents via small group Bible studies applications

Monthly

- Intentionally equip parents in services - interviews, application in sermon
- Parent Newsletter
- Ten Tips (available on Kidswise, see below #)
- Parenting Tools (available on Kidswise, see below #)
- Post recommended resources on parents facebook page
- Recommend age appropriate Bibles
- Recommend devotional resources

Yearly

- Parenting seminars
- Visit each family
- Talk to each parent once per year:
 - What have you found helpful in discipling your child?
 - What would you like help with in discipling your child?