

## Why VBS?

Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Pastor Adam

### Matthew 18:5

“Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.”

### Matthew 28:19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

### Psalm 78:4-8

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### 2 Timothy 3:15 (NLT)

“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.”

- By 9 years old, the basic belief system of a person is formed.
- Of the 7 Billion people on earth today, more than 50% of them are under the age of 13.
- 40 million children in the USA have NEVER been to church.
- 2 out of 3 children in the USA do not know Jesus.
- 86% of all people who commit their lives to Jesus make that decision before the age of 15.
- Percentage of people in the US during different eras that believed basic Bible truths and were Saved:
  - 65% Silent (1926-1945)
  - 35% Baby Boomer (1946-1964)
  - 16% Gen X (1965-1979)
  - 10% Millennials (1980-1995)
- This Generation Z (1996-2013) will only have \_\_\_\_\_% Bible believing, Born Again Christians.

## We have to do something to change that!!

**Luke 2:46** “After three days they found Jesus in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.”

**John 21:15** Jesus said, "Peter, Feed my lambs."(children)

**Hebrews 10:25** “Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

### Deuteronomy 31:12

“Call them all together—men, women, children, and the foreigners living in your towns—so they may hear this Book of Instruction and learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully obey all the terms of these instructions.”

**Joshua 8:35** “There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the aliens who lived among them.”

### Four Reasons We Attend Church:

1. Church anchors Us.
2. Church Provides Fellowship.
3. Church Gives Us Opportunities To Serve.
4. We Get To Know God.

## Five Priorities For Our Children To See In Us As A Church:

### 1. Passionate Relationships With Jesus.

**Deuteronomy 6:5-6,** \_\_\_\_\_

Before God commands parents to diligently teach their children, He first instructs them to passionately love Him! We cannot transfer to our children what we do not possess ourselves.

### 2. God's Word Is Our Standard.

We are living in a day that offers as many views on who God is. The Bible is the standard that we use to raise children that are God honoring.

**Isaiah 40:8 (NLT)**

“The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever.”

**Matthew 7:24-26 (NLT)**

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock.”

### 3. We Love And We Bless Children.

**Genesis 27:34** “When Esau heard his father's words, he let out a loud and bitter cry. “Oh my father, what about me? Bless me, too!” he begged.”

**Mark 10:13-16** \_\_\_\_\_

- Jesus took time for the children.
- Jesus tenderly touched the children and offered loving affirmation.
- Jesus used kind words with the children.

‘To bless a child’ – to speak a message that attaches high value and pictures a special future for them with an active commitment to help them fulfill it.

### 4. We Help Children Understand Their Greatest Need.

**Psalms 51:5** “For I was born a sinner. Yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.”

Children do not enter this world pursuing God. They came as every person does; a self seeking sinner in need of a savior! The most urgent need of every child is salvation. The new birth is evidenced in children when you see their life, thinking, and behavior revolving around Jesus Christ.

*“Most Christian parents assume that church attendance or youth-group involvement equates to the new birth.*

*~William Farley*



### 5. We Train Children.

**Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

- ‘train up’ to dedicate – make the decision to see to it your child is trained in the things of God – at home and in a church that teaches God's Word
- A stick next to a tomato plant, with the plant tied to it. The plant will grow tall and straight.