



We Build Kids, part 2 of 2—

Developing a Strategy for a Purpose-Driven Children's Ministry

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(Continued from part 1.)

How can the church develop children's ministries that truly build young lives?



By working through the process of becoming purpose driven in children's ministry

We Build People is built upon five biblical purposes—evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and worship. Each of these purposes is important. None of them are negotiable. Effective children's ministry in the local church intentionally develops a strategy for each purpose. The key questions a church should ask are:

•How can we insure that each of these purposes have a healthy, vibrant expression in our children's ministry?

•How can we cooperate with the Holy Spirit to see each of these purposes find appropriate expression in the life of each child?

The *We Build People Pastor's Kit* includes a section designed specifically to assist the leaders involved in children's ministry in local churches as they seek to develop ministries that are purpose driven and help children become devoted followers of Jesus. Sections are provided for both elementary children and

early childhood. Complete resource lists are included. By following the process outlined in the *Pastor's Kit*, the leadership of the local church is led to:

1. Develop a mission and vision statement for their children's ministry and consider how each of the biblical purposes would be expressed in their children's ministry.
2. Become aware of and embrace the strategies and values identified in the *We Build People* philosophy of ministry.
3. Evaluate all of their present children's ministries in light of how effectively they fulfill the biblical purposes.
4. Develop their own process for building children's lives through the ministries of their church.



By including the key aspects of a people-building children's ministry

Each of the five purposes of *We Build People* will be expressed in a healthy, vibrant children's ministry. The following questions can serve as a guide for evaluation:



Include them

What are we doing to reach out to the children in our community with the gospel?



Instruct them

What is the quality of our teaching ministry for children?

How effective are our Sunday School and Children's Church programs?

Are children being exposed to the systematic teaching of God's Word?

Are they learning the foundational truths of the Bible in developmentally appropriate ways?

Are they developing the attitudes and habits of life that will help them live vibrant, victorious Christian lives?



Involve them

Is our children's ministry oriented to producing spectators or participation and involvement?

Are those who work with children in our church sensitized to be on the watch for giftedness in children and prepared to affirm and encourage its development?

Are opportunities provided at every level to begin involving children in ministry?



Invest them

What are we doing to engen-

der a sense of divine purpose in the lives of children?

Are we helping children who have become Christians know how to share their faith with others?

Are we encouraging them to be involved in missions early on?

What are we doing to help children begin to hear and respond to the call of God upon their lives?



Inspire them

Are we helping children desire to authentically worship God in

spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)?

Are we encouraging them to discover how to express their worship through their words, music, giving, and lifestyle?

Are we using music they enjoy and relate to?

Are they learning to pray effectively?

Are they provided opportunities to worship together with other children as well as with their parents and the rest of the church in corporate worship?

We *Build People* has proven to be a marvelous blessing to local churches as they have sought to revitalize and re-vision their ministries! Souls have been saved and congregations have grown. God has poured out his Spirit. Lives have been changed! New dimensions of purpose and effectiveness have come to many congregations. God wants these very things to happen in children's ministry across the country! *We Build People* is not just for adults—it's for children too!

Questions For Further Study—

Refer to the questions found under the subheadings: Include them, Instruct them, Involve them, Invest them, and Inspire them. Write your answers and observations below or on a separate sheet of paper and discuss them with your children's ministries staff.

The *We Build People Pastor's Kit* is available through Gospel Publishing House. Gain an overview of *We Build People*—the total church, disciple-making process. Packed in a 3-ring binder, this helpful kit includes an implementation guide, the *We Build People* staff training book, a *We Build People* video, and four *Investigating Commitment Series Leader Guides*. Call 1-800-641-4310. Order # 26VA0692.

