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# KIDS LEADING FAITH FORMATION

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... and a little child shall lead them.  
Isaiah 11:6

Our kids are leading ... or they are leaving.  
Lyle Griner

But, really, what can kids do?

- Noisy
- Messy
- Drop the offering plate
- Not reverent enough
- Don't know or understand what we are doing

When will they be the right age?

If we miss the time to include them ...  
Peter and Penny Go Swimming

What are you already doing that includes kids in leading?

Exploring a few more options:

- Greeting, welcoming, hospitality
- Ushering
- Reading a lesson ... and ,really, you could use a children's Bible
- Doing a children's message
- Surrounding the baptismal font and welcoming the newly baptized
- Older kids reading to younger kids
- Older kids team teaching younger kids in Sunday school or VBS
- Teaching the congregation a song, with motions
- Comforting the crying baby or grieving elder
- Naming where they have seen Jesus this week
- Answering, "What would Jesus have us do?"
- Blessing adults in worship
- Reminding adults of their baptism
- Visiting your elders and interviewing them about their lives
- Videotaping and projecting those conversations for the congregation
- One-on-one conversations with elders in worship

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.  
Matthew 18:3-5

So, what do we have to learn from children?

- What did Jesus mean, “Become humble like this child?”
- Lori and the third graders
- Hayden at age four
- What are your stories?

How can we do that?

- Listen
- Pay attention
- Take children seriously
- Spend time with kids
- Share what you hear
- Not “cute” or “the punchline”
- Sermon illustrations about real kids
- Cross+generational experiences and guided conversations

Then little children were being brought to [Jesus] in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

Matthew 19: 13-14

How does your congregation welcome children?

- Door handle
- Colors
- Spaces
- Bulletins
- Kids leading worship
- Songs they know
- Smiles, not scowls
- Children’s Bibles in the pew racks

What do you already do?

What more would you like to do?