



What are the habits of healthy growing ministries?

Why do some kids ministries thrive and others barely survive? What are the approaches and activities of sticky churches? Here are five indispensable practices of healthy growing ministries:

Engagement: Opportunities are created for children to connect with Jesus and love others as He loves them (Matthew 22:37-39). We do this by helping children have meaningful encounters with Jesus, engage with His Word, offer Him praise and prayer, and do what He would do.

Discussion: Dialogue, questioning, and ongoing conversations about the Christian faith is facilitated. We do this by cultivating occasions for families, small groups, and one-on-one mentoring relationships to flourish. (Proverbs 14:15, Philippians 4:8)

Community: Children and parents are encouraged to thrive as vital parts of the body of Christ. We do this by supporting families as the primary agents for spiritual nurture, and by fostering intentional holistic intergenerational faith conversations. (Deuteronomy 6:1-8, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30).

Participation: Release children for service. We do this by inviting and equipping children to use their gifts and abilities to worship and serve Jesus in their homes, schools, communities, and local churches (James 2:18-20).

Signposts: Provide occasions for children to experience and celebrate milestones, rites of passage, significant transitions, and high points in their lives. We do this at camps, graduations, birthdays, baptisms, confirmations, conferences, and special events. (1 Corinthians 1:3)

Open God's Word, ask the Holy Spirit to empower you, focus everything you do on Jesus, live righteously, integrate these five practices into what you're doing, and the outcome will be ministry health and growth.

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