

Interacting with Children

"Don't be in a hurry; think, oh think, what it means to win a soul for Christ and do not grudge time spent on one person."

D.L. Moody

INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

Some **similarities** between children and adults:

- Children are people:

Some **differences** between children and adults:

- Vocabulary:

INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

- Experience:

Taking advantage of our present **opportunities:**

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"Be the visible representation of an invisible God."

*"We demonstrate our love toward God, the God we can't see,
by loving the people we can see." Rich Chaffin*

INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

Using Questions to Start Conversations with Children:

Hi! What's your name? My name is... and this is our helper...

Is this your first time here? Welcome! We're so glad to have you! Is this your first time to *this* church or to *any* church? That's great! We're glad to have you! Well, let me tell you what we do in class, that way you'll kind of know what to expect...

Do you have any brothers or sisters? What are their names? How old are they?

Do you have any pets? What kind? Name? Color?

Where do you go to school, or are you homeschooled?

Do you play sports? Which one? What do you like about that sport?

Do you play an instrument? Which one? How long have you played it?

When you're not doing school or chores, what do you like to do?

How was your week? What made it good/fine/bad/okay? You don't know why, it just was a good/fine/bad/okay week?

What have you been up to lately?

Did you have a favorite part of your week? Of school?

Did you have a least favorite part?

Have you been learning anything interesting in school? Anything that you've been enjoying learning about?

What is your favorite subject in school? What makes that your favorite subject?

Do you like history or science? Math or reading?

What do you like in science: planets, or things you see in a microscope, or animals...?

If you could live at any time in history, when would it be?

Do you have a favorite book? Are you reading any books right now? **Tell me about it!**

Would you rather do indoor chores or outdoor chores? What do you like about indoor/outdoor chores?

Which do you like better: the beach or the mountains? What do you like to do there?

Which is your favorite season? What do you love most about it?

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If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be? Why would you choose that person?

What's your favorite ice cream flavor? Least favorite?

What's your favorite kind of pizza?

What's your favorite vegetable? Least favorite?

What did you eat for breakfast today?

What's your favorite part of school? (Don't disregard "recess," you can ask what they like to do at recess and what they like about recess.)

What's your favorite game/toy?

If you could visit any country, where would you go?

If you could be like anyone when you grow up, who would you like to be like? What do you like about that person?

When you think of your future, what do you think about?

Do you speak another language? Which one? Can you say something for me?

If you could speak another language, which one would you choose?

Who do you most look up to? (A person whom you respect/admire/want to be like, etc.)

Have you ever imagined how God might want to use your life?

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- Smile.
 - Look at the person you're talking to. Make eye contact (but be careful that it's not so constant and intense, which can make some children feel intimidated).
 - You can talk to them while not facing them, but make a point to show them you're interested in what they're saying through your body language, facial expressions, eye contact, and verbal responses.
 - Ask questions to show that you value the child and are interested in the child's life and in what he/she is thinking (including clarifying questions).
 - Be natural and friendly.
 - Let them talk. They want to be heard and listened to.
 - It's okay if a child doesn't answer your questions. The point is to show them kindness and to reach out to them.