# The Call to Disciple Children

## Church Climate

How are those who minister to and with children viewed in your church?
Being able to staff well means that the church regularly values, supports, encourages, and affirms persons who use their gifts to minister with children; they are not seen as merely filling a programmatic role but seen instead as ministers of the Gospel.

When staffing for ministry, it's important to remember that Christ did not call volunteers to fill an opening; Christ called those who were willing to be disciples.

There is no such thing as babysitting in the church. Everyone who ministers with children - from nursery on up - is ministering in the name of Christ and is reflecting Christ for each child, no matter how young. Holding and caring for infants is the way they experience love in this world. For those ministering in this way, they are indeed reflecting the love of Christ for the children within their care.

## Children's Ministry a High Calling

- Children welcome in God's kingdom — Mt.18:2-5, Mk. 9:36-37, Lk. 18:15-17
- The Word of God is for children — Deut. 31:10-13
- Teach children God's Word — Ps. 78:5-7, Prov. 22:6
- The promise of the Gospel is for children — Acts 2:38-39
- Children can be God's ambassadors — 1 Sam. 3:1-19
- Parents and the church called as spiritual partners — Deut. 6:4-9
- Children reflect how we are to enter the kingdom — Luke 18:16
- Children are the continuing expression of our spiritual heritage — Deut. 6:2 &4-9

## Call to Disciple Children

Children's ministry is made up of a group of Christ's disciples who in turn disciple children.

- Christ calls us to make disciples — Mt. 28:19-20
- Christ calls us to be servants — Mk. 10:45
- Christ calls us to be a priesthood of believers — 1 Peter 2:9
- Christ calls us to be one unified body — 1 Cor. 12:12-26