

Lesson #12: Pray! Pray! Pray! There are eyes that watch and minds that remember even when there seems to be no ears to hear.

Humans are big lovers of "Right Now"! But we serve a God to whom a thousand years is as a day. His plans are magnificent and big and they come about in His own, perfect time. And so, it's not surprise that while some children come to faith as children, there are many more who hear the gospel and learn the Bible, but who never come to faith until years, even decades later.

We are grateful for the encouragement of those children who become Christians at an early age! Yes, we are so grateful... both for their sake and the sake of those who pour their lives into teaching them in the things of God. We should pray for that fruit and thank God for that fruit.

But, we should pray just as much for those seeds sown by parents and teachers today, but that seem to simply lay dormant. It doesn't mean they are duds, just because they have not yet sprung to life. We serve a wonder-working, prayer-answering God! We must not give up. We must keep on praying!

Check your attitude! It is "What you see (right now) is what you get?" Mine so often reverts back to this, as I pray and pray for some and still they have not come to faith. One pastor friend said recently in a sermon: "How much are you praying for the lost? Have you given up? If God so willed to save everyone you prayed for this week, how many people would be saved?" It was a telling question. My impatience to see fruit now often turns into hopelessness and prayerlessness.

So, keep on being faithful! By God's grace, live out a godly life before the children. Let them see your relationship with the living God. Teach them all in the most memorable and understandable ways that you can. Don't give up doing your best! Don't give up praying! Pray for the parents, the teachers; pray for these little lives.

As Alfred Tennyson once said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

The elders, children's ministry team, teachers and parents praying for the children, as you might expect. But we also encourage our whole congregation to regularly pray for families is by including the names of the children with the parents in a special section in the back of our membership directory. This helps remind members like our college students or older singles, who might not usually think much of the children, to pray for them. Together, we support families!

So much of working with kids is like filling time capsules. Who knows when they will be opened by the Holy Spirit in a way that brings the truth of the gospel to life in a saving way? God has chosen to weave our prayers into the outworking of His great and glorious plans...even for these children.

Lesson #12: Questions for You in Your Ministry Setting:

1. Who regularly prays for the children and parents in your church?
2. How do you encourage people to pray? What else could you do?
3. Do you struggle with impatience or discouragement over children who have not yet become Christians? Does this show up in your prayers?
4. Do you know of anyone who heard the gospel as a child and many years later came to faith?