

CHRIST Series: Children and Youth Study

Read our mission statement:

To know Christ and make Him known, that all may become His fully devoted disciples.

Knowing Christ

What was your experience of church and faith as a child? Is this common to children today? Why/why not?

Would you describe your current experience of faith as “childlike” at all? How? (Matthew 18:2-5)
If not, how might you discover, or rediscover, your “childlikeness”?

Making Him Known

Have you been involved in passing on faith or discipleship of youth (including your own children)? Does any of your experience, firsthand or observed, line up with these aspects (below) of youth ministry?

1. *Mutual discipleship - Both elder and younger benefit and grow through the process.*
2. *Familiarity and openness to change - Youth are in a constant state of change and have an increased readiness to adapt compared to adults*
3. *God is pleased to work through the weakness of children - When God works through children it is easier to see how God has done something because the child is not capable by themselves.*

Talking about the priorities Tim identified for youth discipleship:

1. Justice

What needs do children and youth have in our church and community? What stumbling blocks exist in our community for young people and their faith, and how can we remove these? (Matthew 18:6-7)
What opportunities exist within your own influence to minister to children who cannot fully care for themselves?

How could we increase our involvement, as a church, in ministering to children and youth?

Please take notes and share your ideas with the Church Office and staff, who can in turn discuss these with the Pastoral Support Team and ministry leaders.

2. Empowerment

What are the greatest opportunities for children and youth to be empowered in our church and community?

What role can you take in empowering children and youth in our church and community? (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Please take notes and share your ideas with the Church Office and staff, who can in turn discuss these with the Pastoral Support Team and ministry leaders.

3. Integrity of example

Do I hold expectations of young people that I do not hold for myself, when it comes to living out our faith?

Has someone younger than me challenged me on my faith recently - in a good way? How did I respond?

How do I invite young people to “follow me as I follow Christ”? (1 Corinthians 11:1) Am I available and open to sharing my faith with children and youth?

If knowing Christ is about transformation (2 Corinthians 5:17), where can I pinpoint current change in my life?