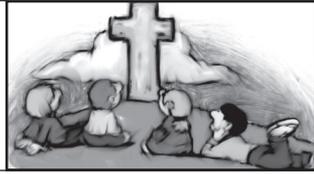


## Chapter 1

# PHILOSOPHY of CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



**C**hildren's Ministries seeks to develop the faith of children ages birth to fourteen. In addition to Sabbath School which provides religious education for children once a week, Children's Ministries seeks to provide multiple ministries that will lead children to Jesus and disciple them in their daily walk with Him.

The Bible makes it very clear that children are very special to God. If you examine what the Bible says about children, you will notice a great number of perspectives:<sup>2</sup>

- ***Children are a gift from God.*** He gives children to parents as special sign of love and personal fulfillment (Deut. 7:13; Ps. 127:3).
- ***Children are desirable.*** From creation, God has instructed us to bear children (Gen. 9:7; Deut. 6:3).
- ***Children bring joy and blessings to adults.*** God provides many benefits to parents through parenting their children (Num 5:28; Deut. 28:4, 11).
- ***Children need to be taught how to develop a relation with God.*** One of our greatest challenges is to pass on our beliefs and understanding of God to our children (Exod. 12:26, 37; Deut. 6:1-7; Prov. 22:6).
- ***Children are so valuable to God that He commands us to protect them.*** Parent are to ensure the spiritual and physical security of their children (1 Sam. 20:42; Ezra 8:21).
- ***God loves children enough to ensure that they receive discipline.*** (Prov. 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; Eph. 6:4).
- ***God enjoys the nature and personality of children and asks adults to learn from them.*** Scripture identifies attributes such as sincerity, humility, simplicity, and trusting as qualities found in children, and God treasures these characteristics (Matt. 18:3; 19:14; Phil. 2:15).

If children matter this much to God, then they should matter as much to us, too.

Jesus' Great Commission is: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (*Matthew 28:19*). Surely, this includes making disciples of children and leading them to make a commitment to Jesus.

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2 Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*. Ventura, California: Regal Books, 2003.