

**POSTMODERN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY;
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(Handouts)**

Who Are the Postmodern Generation?

- They are also called the Millennial Generation.
- Also known as Generation Y.
- Those born between 1980 and 2001.

What Do Postmoderns Believe?

- There is no absolute truth.
- Truth is subjective and relative.
- Grows out of one's perspective and life experiences.
- There is no common standard by which to judge, measure, or value ideas or opinions.
- We can use our reason to solve any problem and make the world a better place.

More beliefs . . .

- Not optimistic about the future; man cannot fix it; hence, reason is not the only way to discover knowledge and truth.
- Emotions, intuition and other less reasonable modes are valid ways to discover truth.

Characteristics of Postmodern Children

- Cyberliterate and technology dependent.
- Able to multitask.
- Tolerant of differing opinions, cultures and lifestyles—'emotional intellectual openness.'
- Value highly personal freedom of choice.
- Each person should do what's right for him.
- Are experience oriented—"I want to try it."
- Value immediacy and in living in the moment.
- Want to experience God, not just learn about God.
- Not quick to trust adults—want them to prove they are trustworthy.
- Value integrity and honesty in adults.
- Want people to be authentic with them.
- Trust themselves instead of trusting in authority figures.
- Values hard work but not necessarily career prestige.
- Have the potential for living unselfish lives

How Should We Deal with Postmodern Children?

- Understand postmodern sensibilities, not fighting or denying them.
- Think creatively of bringing a discussion of faith and the Christian story to our children.
- Rethink how we help our kids experience the story.
- Help our church communities & families experience the story with their children.

Spiritual Development of Children in the Faith Community

1. Children need to be involved in processes that communicate belonging.
“Forming relationships with children is the responsibility of all members of the church, not just those who work with them.” Lawrence Richards
2. Children need to be guided in processes that involve participation.
 - * children must be allowed to participate in the activities and rituals of the faith community.
 - * children must experience stories of faith.
3. Modeling of adult lives in front of our children.
 - * children see models of faith among the members of the church.
4. Children need to be guided in instructional processes as interpretations of life.
 - * children learn more from informal and non-formal means of education than through sitting in a classroom.
5. Help and encourage children in the exercise of choice making.
 - * children can be given the opportunity to make clothing and food choices.
 - * help them understand the consequences of their choices.
 - * challenge them to make choices to live intentionally in God’s way.

Lawrence Richards

Theology of Children’s Ministry

“God surrounded children with adults both in the family and the community of faith to guide, teach, and model life for them . . . No child can truly come to know God without the influence of caring, godly adults in his/her life.”

Ellen G. White

Reflecting Christ, p. 373

“Those who love God should feel deeply interested in the children and youth. To them God can reveal His truth and salvation. Jesus calls the little ones that believe on Him, the lambs of His flock. He has a special love for and interest in the children. . . . The most precious offering that the children can give to Jesus, is the freshness of their childhood.”

Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 202

“Our church schools are ordained by God to prepare the children for this great work. Here children are to be instructed in the special truths for this time and in practical missionary work. They are to enlist in the army of workers to help the sick and the suffering. Children can take part in the medical missionary work and by their jots and tittles can help to carry it forward. Their investments may be small, but every little helps, and by their efforts many souls will be won to the truth. By them God's message will be made known and His saving health to all nations. Then let the church carry a burden for the lambs of the flock. Let the children be educated and trained to do service for God, for they are the Lord's heritage.”