



CHILDREN'S



MINISTRY



FOR THE LONG HAUL

25th Big Day Out

7th November 2017

All Souls Langham Place

So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Psalm 78:6 & 7

Where do you derive joy from in your ministry?



What do you determine as success in your ministry?



What motivates you to get out of bed every day?



“The thought that came to me was the power that comes when our vision is centred on the glory and praise of God. Practically I believe that this glory comes into its own when we self-consciously make it our anchor for what we are doing.”

The Heart of a Servant Leader

Jack Miller

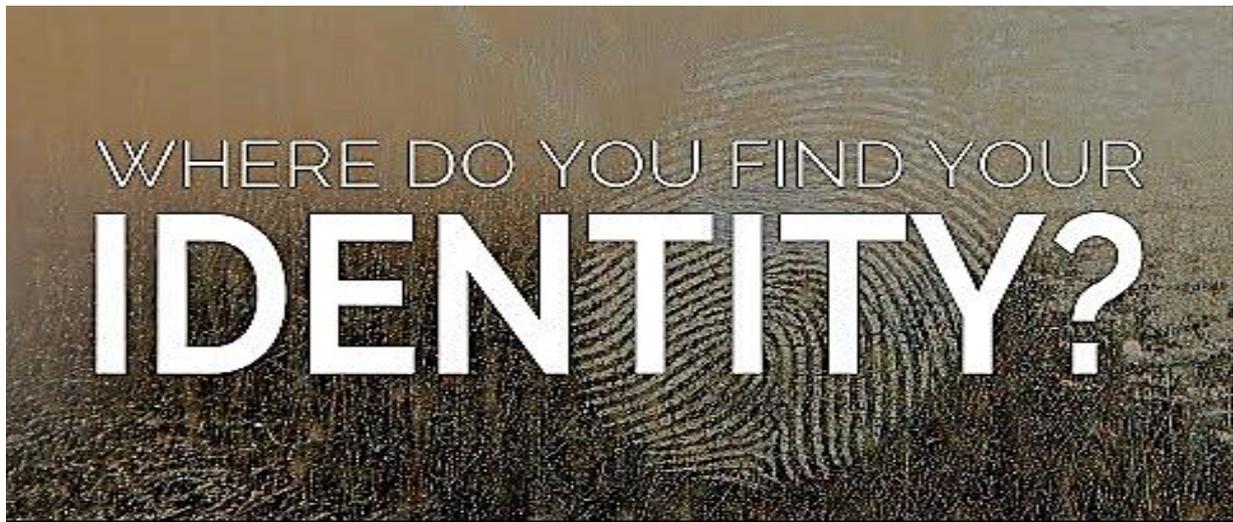
1 Thessalonians 2

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ²But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. ⁶Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹For you remember, brothers, our labour and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹²we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men^[e] but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. ¹⁴For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, ¹⁵who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind ¹⁶by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

¹⁷But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavoured the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, ¹⁸because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.



I always say it this way: “No one is more influential in your life than you are, because no one talks to you more than you do.” Whether you realize it or not, you are engaged in an unending conversation with yourself. What you say to yourself is formative for the way you live. You are constantly talking to yourself about your identity, spirituality, functionality, emotionality, mentality, personality, and so on. You are constantly preaching to yourself some kind of gospel. You preach to yourself an anti-gospel of your own righteousness, power, and wisdom, or your preach to yourself the true gospel of deep spiritual need and sufficient grace. You preach to yourself an anti-gospel of aloneness and inability, or you preach to yourself the true gospel of the presence, provisions, and power of an ever-present Christ.

Smack dab in the middle of this conversation is what you tell yourself about your identity. We're always assigning to ourselves some kind of identity. There are only two places to look. I will either get my identity vertically, from who I am in Christ, or I will shop for it horizontally in the situations, experiences, and relationships of my daily life. This is true of everyone, but I am convinced that pastors are particularly tempted to seek their identity horizontally.

Paul Tripp

Are you tempted to find your identity in...

- The praise of people?
- The love of the children you serve amongst?
- The efficiency of your ministerial organisation?
- The amount of experience you have in children's ministry?

Consider your heart!

♥ *Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.*

Proverbs 4:23

Develop strategies for dealing with:

- Discouragement
- Criticism
- Failure
- Loneliness
- Dryness

Stay spiritually healthy

- Be prayerful
- Be devoted to the word
- Be accountable

Some practical help

- Be predictable
 - Establish a routine
- Be intentional
 - Schedule a full day every half term to read and pray

- Be relational
 - Meet termly with fellow children's worker to read and pray
- Be demanding
 - Determine what you need to maintain your spiritual health and make it happen!
- Be in church

Managing children's ministry long term

- Don't be a neophiliac!
- Do have a clear biblical strategy
 - Develop a vision statement for your children's ministry
 - Outline your aims and objectives
 - Aims: Statements of intent
 - Objectives: Specific statements that define measurable outcomes
 - Sit down at the end of every year to assess whether your ministry is achieving its objectives and working towards its aims effectively. Consider inviting someone in to assist you in this review. Identify changes that need to be made or implemented at the end of the academic year and begin to implement the changes immediately.
 - Include termly reviews in your schedule. This will make sure that details don't get lost and they will provide the detail for your annual review.

- Do be effective in planning
 - Develop a system of planning that suits you
 - Getting Things Done
 - Bullet Journal
 - Full Focus Planner

⚠ This is loving to one's self and others!

- Establish a yearly calendar of ministry tasks and responsibilities
- Bring a team of volunteer leaders closely alongside you; love them, invest in them and allow them to share in your vision for the children's ministry you're responsible for
- Don't be a control freak! Trust in the sovereignty of God
- Do be a master of delegation
- Learn to say no
- Pray for the children in your care
- Pray for the leaders you work alongside
- Be committed to lifelong learning
 - Conferences
 - Reading
 - Listening

General self-care

I admire the bravado. It sounds dedicated, bold, and stirring. However, when I view the burnt-outs and the almost burnt-outs who lie by the ecclesiastical road, the glory fails to reach me. I see pain and waste and unfinished service. Is there not a third alternative to either burning out or rusting out? In Acts 20:24, Paul stated, "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me." Herein lies the model I choose to follow. I want neither to burn out nor rust out. I want to finish out the race.

James Berkeley

- Develop resilience
- Practice the principle of Sabbath rest
- Manage your working hours
- Invest in your marriage
- Take all your holidays
- Enjoy time with friends and family
- Care for your personal health
- Develop a personal hobby
- Build in a reading week to you yearly schedule
- Plan for a sabbatical (with the bosses permission!)
- Discover what affords your rest and do it!