

1

Effective Ministry for Children

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 NIV




Nancy C. Grim Hunter, Ph.D. Effective Ministry for Children, January 28, 2017.

2

The Whole Child?


"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5 NIV

Learning Styles
Visual / Logic / Patterns
Auditory / Verbal
Kinesthetic / Physical
Social / Emotional / Spiritual



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3




Conceptual Framework on Discipleship

- ❖ **Theological Lens – Missio Dei**
 - **God is love.** That capacity to love is beyond human comprehension. We were created in the image of God in order to fully experience God's love and to share that love with our neighbor. That divine love is experienced through the Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - **God the Father sent God the Son** to redeem / restore humanity to the divine. Jesus was sent with the authority of God the Father to do this work of compassion and justice.
 - **God the Son, Jesus, equipped (taught) the disciples** and then sent them out by command to share the Good News (the gift of Jesus) to "all the ends of the earth." The disciples were sent with divine authority in the name of Jesus as ambassadors who are guided by the Holy Spirit.
 - **Christians are commanded to do likewise.** We are to follow the command to share the Good News. However, we respond to that gracious gift of love and mercy by following the call to do God's mission.
 - **Christians accept the call to be co-participants in God's mission of love.**

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4



Conceptual Framework on Discipleship

- ❖ **Theological Praxis – Missio Dei**
 - **Embrace:** As children of God, be open to accept and love people with an "Open Heart, Open Mind, and Open Door."
 - **Engage:** Be intentional to implement strategies across all aspects of the life of the church – Worship, Discipleship, Mission /Outreach, Spiritual Growth, Stewardship, Membership Care, etc.
 - **Educate:** Design experiences that that involve multiple domains and learning styles for the whole child in safe learning environments. Teach Christ-centered knowledge, skills, dispositions – ways of thinking and being.
 - **Empower:** As Jesus modeled, affirm children to become the disciples who are sent out with authority in Christ's name to share the Good News in response to the grace and mercy of God.

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