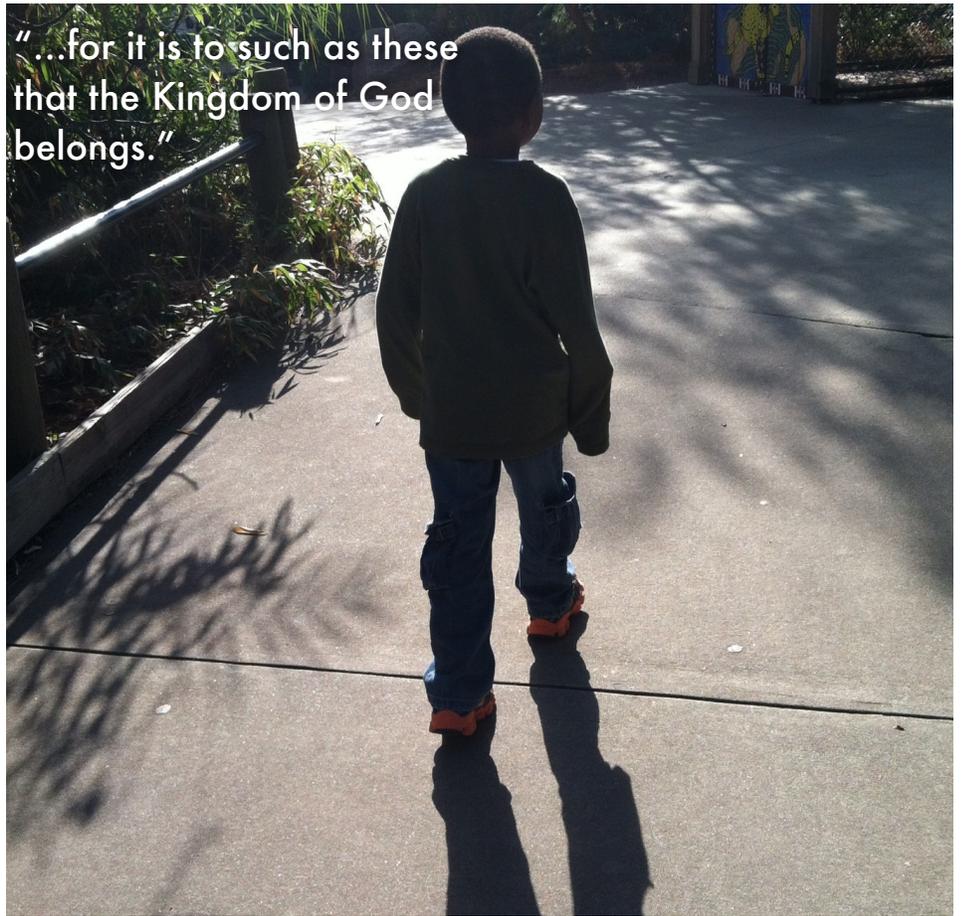


# Ministry With Children

JANUARY  
2013



## Guiding the Digital Generation in Christian Context

### Why Stillness is Important

The Psalmist writes, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." What then does this mean for our children in a time when the world seems more troubled than ever, and the home and church that were once a physical and spiritual refuge have often become places of hurriedness? Our children awaken each morning with the world not at their doorstep, but in their hands. The time that used to be spent making the transition from sleep to

the outside world through conversation and a meal around a table has been consumed by the rise of the handheld gadget that invites various images into our children's minds without the careful vetting of the responsible adult.

The child born into the digital age may find it difficult to experience blocks of time for quiet and stillness. Sometimes we wrongly believe that children need to be in constant motion to learn and connect with the world, but anyone who

spends quality time with children knows that it is within the quiet and the face-to-face that relationships deepen and connections strengthen.

### Quote of the Month

"Be still and know that I am God" - Psalm 46

ADDRESSING TOPICS OF  
CONCERN FOR THOSE  
ENGAGED IN  
MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

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## Resources and Recommendations

### Pockets Magazine

Monthly magazine that connects kids with God the other six days of the week

[pockets.upperroom.org](http://pockets.upperroom.org)

### Ministry with Children Blog

Providing leaders with current topics, experiences, support, resources, and events

[ministrywithchildren.wordpress.com](http://ministrywithchildren.wordpress.com)

### MWC Facebook Group

Connecting leaders in ministry with children with others to share ideas, lend support, and tackle difficult topics in Christian community

[facebook.com/ministrywithchildren](https://facebook.com/ministrywithchildren)

## Inviting Stillness into the Lives of Children

### Faith Development

Talking to children and sharing our story is the most important thing that we can do to lay a strong



foundation of faith for our children. Reading with infants and toddlers is an interactive event. As an adult reads and

makes eye contact with a baby, the baby then reacts and responds to the inflection and tone of voice and touch.

The same is true of children as they grow. Even the most ornery fifth grader enjoys hearing stories, and they especially like it when we listen to their stories. Taking time to share the stories of our faith with children, and allowing them to do the same invites connection to one another and to God.

### Choosing Resources

In Jesus' childhood, we can assume that he grew up in a culture where children were formed and educated through relationships and community. Do you believe our children deserve similar healthy relationships and communication? One important

resource is the laity of the church. Within the community there are people who can serve as teachers, mentors, and guides. Often they do not even realize they possess a gift to work with children. Observe. Inquire. Invite. You may be surprised who shows up. Resources like [The Way of the Child](#) and [Godly Play](#) give children the opportunity to more deeply connect with God through prayer, scripture, and discovery.

### Connecting to the Home

Like many generations of parents, today's parents are usually preoccupied with a daily struggle to ensure that their children have food, clothing, and shelter, as well as love. As leaders and guides in ministry with children, one important role is to offer parents resources they may use in their home to help their children grow in faith. Encourage parents to set aside technology each day to engage with their children - take walks, blow bubbles, lie on the grass and gaze at the sky. Share book lists with biblical foundations that they can read with their children like the books on [MWC Blog Booklist](#).

## Books and Links

### [A Bead 'n A Prayer](#)

Prayer beads can help you focus while praying, giving a child something to hold onto.



They also provide structure and comfort for children who are natural, concrete learners.

### [Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge](#)



This story by Mem Fox is for children of all ages and illustrates the deep sense of connection children can form with others through story and time.

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