

Live the Difference

Christian Education Workshop

A Casowasco Center for Excellence in Leadership Event

Partnering with The Family

Reactivate the Family

- Halloween
 - An estimated 47 percent of household consumers decorate for Halloween.
 - Halloween is second only to Christmas in volume of decorations sold.
 - Over 790 Million pounds of jack-o'-lanterns and pumpkin pies will be purchased.
 - Candy sales will exceed \$2 Billion.
 - More than 93 percent of children go trick-or-treating every year. (I wonder how many of those families go to your church?)

Most Families love Halloween

- Right or wrong, October 31 stirs the imagination of children and engages the hearts of parents!
- Watch your neighborhood closely this fall.
- Listen to the laughter.
- Take a look at the generosity.
- Taste the sugar.
- Feel the energy.
- See the glow in the children's eyes.
- Notice the parents walking with their kids.
- And observe how families connect with other families.

Why can't church be more like that?

- Create the kind of atmosphere for the family that captures their imagination and incites a relational revival in the home?
- How you relate to parents may influence how you reactivate the family.

Levels of Partnership with Parents

- Aware:

Parents are concerned about a particular situation or development. These parents are outside the church but open to it, and they're interested in becoming better parents.

Involved:

- Parents have a basic or entry-level relationship with the church. Even if it's just bringing their kids to church, these parents are taking steps to influence kids spiritually.

Engaged:

- Parents are committed to partnering with the church. They are growing in their relationship with God and assume some responsibility for spiritual leadership in the home.

Invested:

- Parents proactively devote time and energy to partnering with Christian parent groups.

Act like every parent can be a better parent

- Parents who are *aware* can become *engaged* parents.
- Parents who are *involved* can become *engaged* parents.
- Parents who are *engaged* can become *more engaged*.
- Parents who are *more engaged* may even become *invested*.

Family Experiences

- What experiences, programs, or events do you currently have in place that put parents and children in the same room?
- Where and how often do these family experiences occur?
 - Celebrating spiritual milestones like Baptism, Confirmation, Christmas, Easter
 - Kidstuf
 - Others?

The Norm

- Most churches tend to segregate the family.
- Parents and children usually go in separate directions when they arrive on the church grounds.
- Sundays are rarely a shared experience for the family, accept for the drive to and from.

The Exception

- Some churches expect the children to attend adult worship with their parents.
- Putting kids in an adult environment to get them inspired about what their parents believe is sometimes counterproductive.
- Elementary-aged children can easily become programmed to switch off their minds a few minutes into the service.

Why not reverse the Concept?

- Instead of putting kids in an adult world....
- Why not put parents in a kid's world?

Kidstuf

- 252 Basics from *The reThink Group*
- An environment where children take their parents to church!
- Family-Centered
- Kid-Focused
- Values-Driven
- Creatively Wired
- User-Friendly
- Volunteer-Fueled